

Cable TV 'could cut standards'

A deluge of cheap, ancient American programmes would cause much of the best of British broadcasting to disappear if market forces in cable broadcasting were allowed to operate to the exclusion of all else, Mr George Howard, BBC chairman, said last night.

"It seems very unlikely under these circumstances that the Arts Council could continue to be singled out for support and for exemption from those forces; and it seems unlikely we should continue to have Covent Garden, the Royal Shakespeare Company, the National Theatre or all those undertakings, which are at present the glory of Britain," he said.

Mr Howard, who was speaking in London to Standard Telephones and Cables, said anything endangering the quality of British broadcasting must be regarded with grave suspicion.

Surprise result in bridge final

The Crookford's final, the English national contract bridge team championship, was a surprisingly one-sided affair in Birmingham, last weekend, with the team captained by Barry Posner winning easily from the more fancied side led by Tony Forrester.

Scores: 1 B Posner, J Nunes, D Smedley, J Sadler, A Waterlow, D Oram 104.2; A Forrester, B Brock, A Sower, S Loder, M Knight, G Hirst, 89.3; P Littlewood, G Jepson, H Gaborne, S Manavi 84.4; B Teltscher, J Gordon, H Cohen, S Fashpool, B Womers, D Greenwood 76.5 (equal); J Morris, J Hassett, R Morris, W Hirst, and A Kambites, J Augessing, R Chamberlain, J Rye, 59.2; M Ash, R Ferrari, J Holland, B Ewart 49.8; A Clark, S Burton, P Williams, L Young, 40.

Christmas fund gambled away

Phyllis Ingram, aged 57, was jailed for two years yesterday for stealing £24,000 from a public house Christmas savings fund, in Stoke Newington, North London, of which she was treasurer.

After losing the money gambling, Mrs Ingram of Endell Street, Covent Garden, London, fled to Israel in November, 1981, but returned a year later. She admitted nine charges of theft and three of false accounting.

Tanzania hijack appeals fail

Plas for leniency by hijackers claiming to be fleeing political oppression should not readily be entertained by English courts because it is almost impossible to assess the genuineness of such claims, Lord Justice Lawton said yesterday.

He dismissed appeals against conviction in the Court of Appeal by five Tanzanians jailed for hijacking at the Central Criminal Court on September 17 last.

Circus seeks own teachers

Two teachers who want to travel the country with a circus are being sought by Northamptonshire County Council for the children of circus families.

Robert Brothers Circus, based at Polebrook, in Northamptonshire, has asked the county council to provide the teachers. It has agreed to make available caravans and mobile classrooms. The children have been attending a school at Polebrook.

Fire kills three

Three children aged three, two and one, died yesterday when fire swept through their two-storey home in Templemore, Co Tipperary, in the Irish Republic. Mrs Mary Stapleton, their mother, was rescued by neighbours.

Correction

Copies of the Centre for Contemporary Studies report *Undue Influence: Pressures on the University*, are available from the centre at 302 New North Road, London, N1 7BL, price £1.50 (not free as stated on May 19).

BL strikers in Glasgow defy shop stewards and return to work today

The 1,300 workers on strike at British Leyland's axle plant in Glasgow yesterday voted to return to work, against the advice of their shop stewards. They accepted a formula worked out between national union officials and the BL management and will be back at work today.

The formula, reached in Preston, Lancashire, last week, has not removed the threat of compulsory redundancies at the Albion Works, but management has agreed to a further meeting on the issue, which caused the strike to start two weeks ago.

The management is seeking 110 redundancies on a voluntary basis. If these are not forthcoming by July 1 there will be talks with national and local union officials, in the hope of reaching a compromise.

The deadline for the jobs cut is July 15 and BL says that it is confident it will get the necessary figure by then because 98 volunteers have already come forward.

After yesterday's mass meeting Mr James McLean, the shop steward's convenor, said that the situation had not changed.

"We are not disappointed with the decision. We will still fight against the question of

compulsory redundancy in the future. The workers have been pressurized into this decision for economic reasons because of the management's threat to close the Albion Works," he said.

The return to work vote was swung by as few as 50 of almost the total 1,300 hourly-paid workforce. The dispute has proved that all Leyland factories were at risk, and the company was trying to get the principle of compulsory redundancy accepted for use at a future date, he claimed.

There was no rift between local and national engineering union officials, in spite of their opposing recommendations yesterday, Mr McLean added.

Mr Norman Tebbit, Secretary for Employment, described the vote as "good news".

Speaking during an independent local radio phone-in programme, he said that the vote had saved a lot of jobs. "If it had gone the other way there would have been a very sharp increase in unemployment, because that factory would have closed and it would have damaged other factories in Leyland's commercial vehicles group," he added.

Nearly 87 per cent of staff at the Co-operative Bank, which has strong links with the Labour movement, have voted for industrial action over the first compulsory redundancies announced by a high street bank (Our Labour Reporter writes).

Some of the bank's proposals may also be sexually discriminatory and the severance payments on offer are lower than any of its competitors', the Banking Insurance and Finance Union (Biflu) said yesterday.

The bank, which recently reported a 60 per cent drop in profits, wants to cut its 3,200 staff by 256 in three areas: London, Manchester and Skelmersdale, Lancashire. Many of the redundancies will be compulsory.

Mr Eric Hutchinson, a Biflu negotiator, said that union representatives would meet the management again next month and present their counter-proposals for a "new job curvy" agreement.

Mr Hutchinson said: "If this is not acceptable to the bank then we will be on a collision course. I get the feeling that unless they are prepared to consider an alternative then there will be a strike."

More young 'may be held' under new act

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

Stricter measures available to courts sentencing young offenders, in force from today, could lead to up to a three-fold increase in the numbers of juveniles locked up each year.

That warning was given yesterday by Mr Iain Crow, senior research officer of the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders. It is the latest of several forecasts that the new powers, designed to give courts greater flexibility in dealing with juveniles, will lead to more custodial sentences.

The Prison Reform Trust also feels that prisoners may spend longer in custody on remand as a result of the provisions of the Criminal Justice Act, 1982.

The Act abolishes the rule under which remand prisoners must be brought before a court every eight days.

Mr Crow voiced his concern about juveniles in the latest issue of the magazine of the Association of Members of Boards of Prisons. He says that because of the new provisions, it is possible under the provisions of the Act, in theory, that the number of juveniles in detention centres could rise from 12,000 to 34,000.

"Increased receptions into detention centres could have a 'knock on' effect, because if more young people go to detention centres they will be

eligible for youth custody sentences at an earlier stage, because of their previous custodial experience," he says.

From today, sentences of imprisonment for offenders under 21 are abolished. There is a new sentence of youth custody for sentences of more than four months where the offender has committed an offence imprisonable for an adult. Courts must be satisfied that no alternative sentence is appropriate.

For sentences of less than four months offenders will go to detention centres.

Mr Crow says that although shorter sentences are welcome, there is a danger that courts may sentence offenders to custody who would not have received a custodial sentence before. The Home Office, he says, predicts detention centre receptions will rise from 12 to 17 a week and youth custody from eight to 10, compared with seven now at borstals.

On the residential care order, which empowers courts to direct a persistent offender under a care order to be removed from home for up to six months, Mr Crow says the Home Office estimates 500-900 more children will be so removed.

The *Case of the Missing Body* (Prison Reform Trust, 100, Lodge, Regent's Park, London, NW1 4RS).

Derry may lower Union Jack

By Richard Ford

The Union Jack may be lowered for the last time from above the Guildhall in Londonderry in a dispute which displays the divided loyalties of Northern Ireland's population.

The move has angered the minority official and democratic Unionist party politicians on the council, who allege that nationalists are prepared to lower the Union Jack but not to do without the funds from the UK.

Nationalists have a majority of nine on the council and the latest move is being supported by the Social Democratic and Labour Party. That is seen as an attempt to recoup ground lost to Provisional Sinn Féin when the party failed to vote on a motion calling for "London" to be taken from the town's name.

"A majority of people in the city do not consider it the flag of their country. We are not suggesting any other national flag but merely the civil flag, which is politically neutral," Mr Fergus McAleer, an Irish Independence party councillor, said.

Mr Patrick Devine, an SDLP councillor, who backs the proposal, says that the flag causes offence because it has been misused by Unionists as a political emblem.



Valery Fefelov, the invalid expelled from the Soviet Union last October for campaigning for the rights of the disabled, who is in Britain to see invalid facilities and rehabilitation centres. He is to meet Mr Hugh Ross, Minister for the Disabled.

While in Britain Mr Fefelov hopes to raise support for Yuri Kiselev and Faizulla Khussainov, who in March, 1978, joined him

in forming the unofficial Action Group to Defend the Rights of the Disabled. They are threatened with arrest for "slandering the Soviet system" but insist that their activities are in full accordance with Soviet law.

Now aged 40, Valery Fefelov is living in Munich with his wife, seen with him in London yesterday, and her two children. (Photograph: John Manning.)

Pym doubt on Falkland 'UN role'

By Anthony Bevis, Political Correspondent

Mr Francis Pym, the Foreign Secretary, spoke last night on a possible role for the United Nations in the long-term solution of the Falklands issue.

Speaking at Fordingham, in Cambridgeshire, he said that the Government had two basic tasks: to ensure that there was no repetition of the Argentine invasion; and to undertake a careful programme of rehabilitation and economic development.

Turning to the proposals that the United Nations should be given a role, he said that the advocates of such a role had to deal with two questions.

"Will their preferred solution ensure that the wishes of the islanders continue to be respected? Will their preferred solution ensure that the islanders continue to have assured protection against Argentine aggression?"

Prison watchdog quit over 'censoring'

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

Dr Benjamin Lee, medical adviser to the prison inspectorate, disclosed yesterday that he resigned after a clash over the censoring of his views.

He asserts that Sir James Hennessy, the Chief Inspector of Prisons for England and Wales in "not his own master", but subject to controls exercised by the Prison Department and Sir Brian Cubbon, the Home Office Permanent Under-Secretary.

The inspectorate was set up by the Government to be an independent "watchdog", as recommended by the May inquiry into the prison crisis.

Dr Lee, who resigned last January, was appointed as a part-time adviser to the inspectorate. He says in the quarterly journal of the Association of Members of Boards of Visitors that "there are urgent and serious medical problems" in prisons.

But his medical advice was "silenced" by filter mechanisms built into procedures which "were carefully designed to obstruct free comment", he says.

He failed to get his medical advice presented unexpurgated.

to prison governors. Instead his views were "trimmed" to fit in with a consensus view agreed by the inspecting team while still in the prison and presented to the governor.

Dr Lee's reports, sent in within 48 hours of leaving the prison, were "not necessarily even being read" by the inspecting team leader.

"It soon became clear, too, that the Chief Inspector, himself, was not his own master, in practice he appeared to be accountable rather to the Permanent Secretary than, as was May's intention, to the Home Secretary."

Both the programme of inspections and the guidelines for carrying them out are subject to Home Office approval and consent.

"In theory the inspectorate is permitted to make surprise visits to prisons. This power is, in practice, very seldom used and then only by the Chief Inspector."

"My suggestion that more flexibility should be introduced into the programme, and even a degree of genuine surprise, got nowhere."

Launch of £99 flight in doubt

By Michael Bailey, Transport Editor

Britain and US officials on which the fate of People Express's £99 air service from Gatwick to New York on Friday was in the balance last night despite hundreds of bookings at the airline's as yet unopened telephone reservations number.

Nearly 1,000 people got through to the airline on 0293-31144 yesterday although even directory inquiries do not yet have the number. People Express said in London, and 600 of them made firm bookings.

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Express, and Friday's flight will not get off the ground.

In fact, the British Government is bound to license People Express to operate on the route.

The British attitude is that the Americans must decide if the Bermuda Two bilateral agreement takes precedence, in which case British Airways and British Caledonian were acting legally in dropping their fares to match Laker; or if US anti-trust laws have precedence, in which case British carriers matching People Express fares if approved may in turn face anti-trust action in the US.

V & A buys rare Russian lithographs

By Geraldine Norman, Sale Room Correspondent

The Victoria & Albert Museum grasped the opportunity offered by the sale of a collection of avant-garde Russian illustrated books at Sotheby's yesterday to secure the only known coloured lithograph by Malevich.

They are characteristic Futurist abstracts and form the cover of a publication issued in Petrograd in 1920. It is called, in translation, *First Circle of Lectures: Contemporary Art*. It cost the museum £1,430 (estimate £800-£1,200).

The top price was £5,720 (estimate £3,500-£5,000) for a *Translational Book* by Kruchenykh and "Alyagrov", published in 1916, which underlines the links with Dada. The book sale totalled £57,939, with 19 per cent bought in.

In the morning session some of the early children's books sold far beyond estimates.

Overseas selling prices: *André Schuffenecker, 1889-1965, 1900, 1901, 1902, 1903, 1904, 1905, 1906, 1907, 1908, 1909, 1910, 1911, 1912, 1913, 1914, 1915, 1916, 1917, 1918, 1919, 1920, 1921, 1922, 1923, 1924, 1925, 1926, 1927, 1928, 1929, 1930, 1931, 1932, 1933, 1934, 1935, 1936, 1937, 1938, 1939, 1940, 1941, 1942, 1943, 1944, 1945, 1946, 1947, 1948, 1949, 1950, 1951, 1952, 1953, 1954, 1955, 1956, 1957, 1958, 1959, 1960, 1961, 1962, 1963, 1964, 1965, 1966, 1967, 1968, 1969, 1970, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1974, 1975, 1976, 1977, 1978, 1979, 1980, 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1985, 1986, 1987, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2062, 2063, 2064, 2065, 2066, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, 2072, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2076, 2077, 2078, 2079, 2080, 2081, 2082, 2083, 2084, 2085, 2086, 2087, 2088, 2089, 2090, 2091, 2092, 2093, 2094, 2095, 2096, 2097, 2098, 2099, 2100, 2101, 2102, 2103, 2104, 2105, 2106, 2107, 2108, 2109, 2110, 2111, 2112, 2113, 2114, 2115, 2116, 2117, 2118, 2119, 2120, 2121, 2122, 2123, 2124, 2125, 2126, 2127, 2128, 2129, 2130, 2131, 2132, 2133, 2134, 2135, 2136, 2137, 2138, 2139, 2140, 2141, 2142, 2143, 2144, 2145, 2146, 2147, 2148, 2149, 2150, 2151, 2152, 2153, 2154, 2155, 2156, 2157, 2158, 2159, 2160, 2161, 2162, 2163, 2164, 2165, 2166, 2167, 2168, 2169, 2170, 2171, 2172, 2173, 2174, 2175, 2176, 2177, 2178, 2179, 2180, 2181, 2182, 2183, 2184, 2185, 2186, 2187, 2188, 2189, 2190, 2191, 2192, 2193, 2194, 2195, 2196, 2197, 2198, 2199, 2200, 2201, 2202, 2203, 2204, 2205, 2206, 2207, 2208, 2209, 2210, 2211, 2212, 2213, 2214, 2215, 2216, 2217, 2218, 2219, 2220, 2221, 2222, 2223, 2224, 2225, 2226, 2227, 2228, 2229, 2230, 2231, 2232, 2233, 2234, 2235, 2236, 2237, 2238, 2239, 2240, 2241, 2242, 2243, 2244, 2245, 2246, 2247, 2248, 2249, 2250, 2251, 2252, 2253, 2254, 2255, 2256, 2257, 2258, 2259, 2260, 2261, 2262, 2263, 2264, 2265, 2266, 2267, 2268, 2269, 2270, 2271, 2272, 2273, 2274, 2275, 2276, 2277, 2278, 2279, 2280, 2281, 2282, 2283, 2284, 2285, 2286, 2287, 2288, 2289, 2290, 2291, 2292, 2293, 2294, 2295, 2296, 2297, 2298, 2299, 2300, 2301, 2302, 2303, 2304, 2305, 2306, 2307, 2308, 2309, 2310, 2311, 2312, 2313, 2314, 2315, 2316, 2317, 2318, 2319, 2320, 2321, 2322, 2323, 2324, 2325, 2326, 2327, 2328, 2329, 2330, 2331, 2332, 2333, 2334, 2335, 2336, 2337, 2338, 2339, 2340, 2341, 2342, 2343, 2344, 2345, 2346, 2347, 2348, 2349, 2350, 2351, 2352, 2353, 2354, 2355, 2356, 2357, 2358, 2359, 2360, 2361, 2362, 2363, 2364, 2365, 2366, 2367, 2368, 2369, 2370, 2371, 2372, 2373, 2374, 2375, 2376, 2377, 2378, 2379, 2380, 2381, 2382, 2383, 2384, 2385, 2386, 2387, 2388, 2389, 2390, 2391, 2392, 2393, 2394, 2395, 2396, 2397, 2398, 2399, 2400, 2401, 2402, 2403, 2404, 2405, 2406, 2407, 2408, 2409, 2410, 2411, 2412, 2413, 2414, 2415, 2416, 2417, 2418, 2419, 2420, 2421, 2422, 2423, 2424, 2425, 2426, 2427, 2428, 2429, 2430, 2431, 2432, 2433, 2434, 2435, 2436, 2437, 2438, 2439, 2440, 2441, 2442, 2443, 2444, 2445, 2446, 2447, 2448, 2449, 2450, 2451, 2452, 2453, 2454, 2455, 2456, 2457, 2458, 2459, 2460, 2461, 2462, 2463, 2464, 2465, 2466, 2467, 2468, 2469, 2470, 2471, 2472, 2473, 2474, 2475, 2476, 2477, 2478, 2479, 2480, 2481, 2482, 2483, 2484, 2485, 2486, 2487, 2488, 2489, 2490, 2491, 2492, 2493, 2494, 2495, 2496, 2497, 2498, 2499, 2500, 2501, 2502, 2503, 2504, 2505, 2506, 2507, 2508, 2509, 2510, 2511, 2512, 2513, 2514, 2515, 2516, 2517, 2518, 2519, 2520, 2521, 2522, 2523, 2524, 2525, 2526, 2527, 2528, 2529, 2530, 2531, 2532, 2533, 2534, 2535, 2536, 2537, 2538, 2539, 2540, 2541, 2542, 2543, 2544, 2545, 2546, 2547, 2548, 2549, 2550, 2551, 2552, 2553, 2554, 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2721, 2722, 2723, 2724, 2725, 2726, 2727, 2728, 2729, 2730, 2731, 2732, 2733, 2734, 2735, 2736, 2737, 2738, 2739, 2740, 2741, 2742, 2743,*

Surgeon in battle over status of child whose face he rebuilt

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

David Lopez is eight years old and to all intents and purposes the adopted son of Professor Ian Jackson, the gifted Scottish surgeon who rescued him six years ago and restored his face, which had been destroyed by a disease of malnutrition.

To Ian and Marjorie Jackson, the boy is just another child in their family, but not in the eyes of officialdom. Despite all that he has suffered, the immigration authorities of the United States and Britain still regard him as an illegal alien.

Today he speaks English with a Glasgow accent, comes top in his class and is an accomplished athlete. But he has endured a long, painful journey since he was abandoned in a jungle mission in Peru as a baby aged 10 months.

The story of the rescue of the baby and the surgery to remodel the basic bone structure of his face is the subject of a television programme called "Boy David". A second programme, "Marjorie's Quest", is an account of a piece of paper that might satisfy western bureaucrats about the registration of the boy's birth.

The two programmes are among four documentaries in a new BBC 1 series, called *The 1st*, beginning tonight at 9.25 pm.



Mrs Jackson: Her quest is highlighted

It would be invidious to pick out one as a more poignant example of human courage, endurance, compassion and love than another. But by any standards the account of the rescue of the boy and the years of surgery needed to restore his face is remarkable.

The mending of David started in Glasgow and continued at the Mayo Clinic, in the United States, where Professor Jackson took charge of the plastic surgery department three years ago.

The other visits which form the documentary series, produced and reported by Desmond Wilcox, began much closer to home.

Mr Lyn Brooks, a London solicitor, and his wife, a former drama teacher, have a 12-year-old, mentally handicapped daughter, Jennima. For 10 years they brought her up at home, until the pressure became too much.

They have two younger children, one a baby aged four months, and they were finally persuaded to place Jennima in a Mencap home near Portsmouth.

The Brooks visit their daughter once a fortnight. As "Seeing Jennima" shows, each reunion was a strain and raised feelings of guilt and regret. But it was during one visit, on which the programme focuses, that they understood that Jennima was happy.

The quartet is completed with "A Mother for Malcolm". It tells of Hilda Williams, twice widowed and now aged 72. Nearly forty years ago she had an illegitimate son, whom she was forced to hand over to foster-parents. She lived with a mixture of regret and guilt, not knowing the whereabouts of her son.

The delighted astonishment of that son in learning his mother was alive and well, and the subsequent visit, is a singular programme.

Election slows rise in house prices

By Baron Phillips, Property Correspondent

Uncertainties over the election result and a mortgage market are beginning to dampen house price increases. Estate agents in the North, the Midlands and the South-east all say in the latest Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors monthly report on the home market that these factors are beginning to take the edge off rising prices.

Mr John Thomas of the RICS, said yesterday: "many agents are concerned that a fall-off in mortgage funds will effect the salability of properties, but most of the building societies have a reasonable availability, though it may not be on demand."

Across the country most surveys report that the housing market is stable, with a balance between supply and demand. But more than two thirds of agents taking part in the survey say prices rose by between 2 and 5 per cent during the three months to April.

About 6 per cent more than in the previous survey report even larger increases, especially in the South-east.

There is a warning for vendors who hold back their properties from the market in the expectation of making short-term spectacular gains. Agents say that lengthening mortgage queues and election

uncertainties could result in disappointment as prices in some areas become slightly depressed.

The report concludes: "Reports from agents show that the market recovery which began at the turn of the year has continued, but that, despite a healthy market, the mortgage famine and uncertainty over building society and bank lending rates are having a restraining effect on prices in some areas."

Mr Raymond Wallhead, of the Sunderland and Washington firm, Wallhead Gray & Coates, said: "There is definite evidence that the increasing shortage of mortgage funds is having a restrictive effect on the market."

That is supported by other northern agents - such as Leeds-based Eddisons, who say activity in the market has slowed down lately.

Agents in the South-east are making similar comments. Pretty & Ellis who are based in Amersham, Buckinghamshire, say they do not expect further short-term substantial price increases.

A disturbing trend in the South-east noted by agents is that some vendors are "increasing prices unrealistically" against a background of a more competitive climate.

PC jailed for attack on wife

A former policeman who drove a car at his wife, a beauty queen, during a fit of "unreasonable and vicious jealousy" was sentenced to 12 months' imprisonment at Manchester Crown Court yesterday.

Rodney Kettle, aged 30, described at an earlier hearing as living in a fantasy world, was told by Judge Arthur Presti that his promising police career was now destroyed.

The judge sentenced him to two years, but suspended 12 months. Kettle was found guilty at an earlier hearing of attempting to cause grievous bodily harm to his wife, but the jury recommended leniency.

Kettle, of St John's Avenue, Warrington, had been committed on two occasions for acts of "bravery" he resigned from the police the day after the incident last August.

The judge said: "I take the view that the jury must have accepted, in order to make that leniency recommendation, that in the conduct of your wife on that night and before, she had provoked a criminal act which you undoubtedly committed."

"I also take fully into account the fact of provocation. But having said that, it is quite clear that in a moment of anger, driven by your jealousy, you drove the car at your wife intending to cause her really serious injury."

"You were a person who had the chance of promotion, but it is quite clear that from now on neither in the Armed Forces nor in the police force can you have any prospect of further employment."

Mr John Bonney, for Kettle, said the background to the offence was a short and extremely stormy marriage. Kettle had driven the car at his wife, now an air hostess, who was with a man in a public house car park. She has since changed her name to Miss Ann Mellings.

CID plans long inquiry into missing financier

Police inquiries into the business affairs of Mr Keith Hunt, the missing financier, are likely to take at least a year, according to Det. Chief Supt Danny Wright, who is leading the investigation.

Mr Wright, head of Warwickshire CID, which was called in by the Director of Public Prosecutions, is building up a 20 member team to work full time on the inquiry, but says he is not looking for Mr Hunt at present.

Mr Hunt, aged 34, disap-

peared from his Warwick-based companies about a month ago, six of his businesses were wound up in the High Court and the assets of 19 were frozen as Department of Trade investigators moved in.

Mr Hunt is believed to have gone abroad. About 2,000 investors have a total of more than £12m with the companies.

Mr Wright said that the purpose of the investigation is to establish whether any criminal offences have been committed.

Ted Willis wins own award

By Kenneth Gosling

Lord Willis, Ted Willis, the author and playwright, had 40 years of screen and television writing recognized yesterday when he was presented with an award he himself inaugurated 13 years ago.

The Lord "Ted" Willis Trophy is awarded each year as part of the Pye Colour Television Awards for outstanding services to television. Lord Willis is best known for his television scripts for the *Dixon of Dock Green* series, shown between 1953 and 1975.

Other awards, presented in London, were: Regional production, *King's Country* (BBC Television South); special award for regional production, *World Cup: A Captain's Tale* (Tyne Tees Television); original television children's writer, Anthony Read for *Baker Street Boys* (BBC); writer creating best female comedy role, Johnny Speight, for *The Lady Is a Tramp* (Channel 4/Regent Productions), awards also for the actresses, Patricia Hayes and Pat Coombs; creator of best male comedy role, Eric Chappell for *The Bouncer* (Yorkshire Television); and the actors, Peter Bowles and George Cole.

Best scripted contribution to television, Leon Griffiths for *Minder* (Thames Television); personalities of the year, Johnny Briggs, Anne Kirkbride and Bill Roache (*Mike Deade* and *Ken in Coronation Street*, Granada Television); most promising writer new to



'Coronation Street' laurels: Bill Roache, Anne Kirkbride and Johnny Briggs with their Pye awards (Photograph: John Voos).

television, Gerald Seymour for *Harry's Game* (Yorkshire Television); outstanding services to children's television John Craven (BBC); and the Pye Video 2000 children's television award for television writing, Headlands School, Swindon.

Excellence behind the cameras was recognized in London last night with the presentation of the annual programme awards by the Royal Television Society (RTS).

The society's highest award, its gold medal, for outstanding

services to television over more than twenty-five years, was presented to Mr P. Howard Steele, Managing Director of Sony Broadcast Ltd; formerly director of engineering, Independent Broadcasting Authority.



Hannah Gordon, the actress, with the rose, from Kordes, named after her, and Patrick Dickson with Beautiful Britain, the Rose of the Year.

Chelsea growing pains

Nerves were showing yesterday as the cream of Britain's gardeners prepared for today's opening of the sixty-second Chelsea Flower Show (Rupert Morris writes). The public is admitted from tomorrow for three days.

People wandered round with umbrellas, spades and watering cans, weaving their way past huge vans unloading turf and flower arrangements.

"Everybody's getting a bit tetchy, I'm afraid," a woman in a bright blue track suit said to a customer who had been unwise enough to ask a question of one of the harassed gardening staff.

Mr Nigel Gibson, aged 29, a landscape gardener with John Vellam, of Holland Park, said: "It has been a rushed job, working 12 hours a day". The rain had made bricklaying impossible for long periods;

his own display required a substantial wall, as well as a pond surround.

A dilemma of a different sort confronted Hilliers of Winchester, one of the great stalwarts of the show and winners of gold medals for 50 years or more.

One of the main attractions is the new Rose of the Year, Beautiful Britain, which was "born" 10 miles from Belfast.

The rose won its prize, after four years of trials, for its unusual colour, described by Mr Patrick Dickson, who has raised about 800 flowering stems for the show, as like a very ripe tomato, and its free-flowering habit. In the South it should bloom for about three months from the end of June.

Its immediate parents were two other Dickson roses, *Ennoroze* and *Red Planet*.

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Cimex is Thomas Tilling

One of a series

The Cimex 50 Years Anniversary logo is a circular emblem. The outer ring contains the text 'CIMEX ANNIVERSARY' at the top and '1933-1983' at the bottom. In the center, the number '50' is prominently displayed with 'YEARS' written below it.

Below the logo, there is a block of text describing the company's history and achievements. The text is small and difficult to read, but it appears to be a commemorative message.

At the bottom of the advertisement, the company name 'CIMEX INTERNATIONAL' is written in a bold, sans-serif font, followed by a small logo consisting of three circles arranged in a triangle.

Cimex is one of Europe's leading floor machine manufacturers, providing machines of all sizes for industrial and commercial floor cleaning and maintenance, whilst a sister company, Nuway, produces Tuftguard and other specialist entrance matting.

Thomas Tilling

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Thatcher dividing the nation and her own party, Jenkins says

By Our Political Staff

Pressing the claim of the Liberal/Social Democratic Alliance to be the force of moderation, Mr Roy Jenkins, leader of the SDP, yesterday returned to the attack on Mrs Margaret Thatcher as an extremist and the cause of division in the nation and in the Conservative Party.

One of the "biggest pieces of nonsense" he had seen during the election so far, he told journalists at the Alliance press conference in London, was a comparison between Mrs Thatcher and Sir Winston Churchill.

Although Churchill lost two of three elections in which he led the Tories, he nevertheless united the nation for five of the most momentous years in its history, Mr Jenkins said.

It was a very different Tory leader now who sought a return to office, "Mrs Thatcher's contribution is not only to divide the nation as never before, but also to divide and sunder the Conservative Party."

"Where, in this election is Lord Carrington, who is not campaigning? And where is Mr Whitelaw, who seems almost to have been relegated to Cumberland recently? Is Sir Ian

Gilmour's book being distributed at Mrs Thatcher's election meetings?"

Those in the Cabinet who had attempted to campaign for the moderate wing of the party - Mr Francis Pym, the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary, and Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, had been most humbly slapped down.

"Only Mr Tebbit and Mr Parkinson are thought fit to approach the table," Mr Jenkins commented. "Let there be no doubt that a Conservative victory in this election would mean the most right-wing government in this country since the unfortunate premiership of Neville Chamberlain, and the most right-wing government in the Western world."

"The liberal wing of the Conservative Party would be snuffed out. The party of Harold Macmillan and R. A. Butler, of Iain Macleod and Edward Boyle, would be dead."

"It is hardly surprising that, in this circumstances, Mr Pym is hoping that the voters will not give his party a landslide."

Answering questions, Mr Jenkins said he was not

accusing Mrs Thatcher of being "an appeaser", he was talking about her general position in the political spectrum; she was far less concerned about the plight of the unemployed and with the "one nation" concept which had influenced the policies of other post-war Conservative leaders.

When Mrs Thatcher was asked for her reaction to Mr Jenkins's attack, she said: "I really do not think it is worth commenting upon, especially coming from the Liberal and Social Democratic Parties, whose unanimity is not renowned, even on defence policy."

Asked whether she expected Mr Pym still to be Foreign Secretary after a Conservative victory, Mrs Thatcher said resolutely: "I am concentrating on winning and then I will, as is customary, have a look at the jobs which will be held in Cabinet and elsewhere."

"You must get things in the right order. I indicated yesterday that what was indicated in the press, to the effect that there had been conversations with me about this matter, was totally and utterly false."



Mr David Fox (left), Gwendoline Ewen and Mr Anthony Mockler in Shaftesbury (Photograph: Bill Warhurst).

Wessex, the 'one issue' party

By Alan Hamilton

It would have been inauspicious to say the least, had King Alfred, instead of dreaming battle tactics over a smouldering oven, chosen instead to find sudden urgent business on the Riviera at the first sound of approaching Danes. The campaign of the Wessex Regional party has had such an unfortunate start, with its founder, figurehead and patron electing to escape the country for the duration, leaving behind a postal vote for the Liberal-SDP Alliance.

Lord Weymouth, eldest son of the Marquis of Bath and heir to Longleat, who collected 521 votes when he stood as the first and only Wessex Regional candidate at Westbury, Wiltshire, election of February, 1974, explains that his withdrawal from the present contest is purely tactical. He sees the Alliance as offering the best hope of rekindling the dull embers of devolution.

The rest of his party disagree, and intend to field nine candidates in a Wessex

which they regard as a considerably bigger place than that defined either by Thomas Hardy or the Alliance Green Paper on regional government.

The party's Wessex encompasses the counties of Berkshire, Hampshire, Wiltshire, Dorset, Devon and Somerset, as it was before the creation of Avon.

"We are essentially a one-issue party," admits Mr Anthony Barrett Mockler, the party president and military historian from Abingdon, who intends to stand for Wantage. He conceded that devolution has lain dormant as an issue since the voters of Scotland and Wales spurned it in referendums.

Basically, the party's manifesto is *The Statute of Wessex*, a document drawn up last November calling for the establishment of a bicameral Wessex regional assembly with full tax-raising powers and called, inevitably, the Witun. Where it would be based is at present a heavily

fudged issue; too many towns lay claim to being the region's capital, the ancient Wessex kings having been a peripatetic breed.

Mr David Fox, the party secretary and a young Dorset farmer, admits to two main obstacles on the path to election success: the region is relatively prosperous, without the burning injustice of high unemployment that might mobilize a regional vote elsewhere; and any Wessex cultural identity, if it does exist, is no match for the potent nationalism of Scotland, Wales or even Yorkshire.

Present concerns centre on rural bus services, the closure of village schools, friction between natives and incomers, and vaguely expressed feeling that all roads lead to London and drain the region of its best talent and resources.

In 1979 the party fielded seven candidates. Lord Weymouth moved to Wiltshire and his vote went down to 155;

Mr Mockler stood in Dorset and collected 142; Gwendoline Ewen, a former actress who is the party's principal visual asset, stood in Dorset West, and made 192. Their biggest success was in Westbury, Wiltshire, where they collected 1,905 votes, partly because their candidate was a strong and well-known local personality, and partly through some possible confusion; his name was Tom Thatcher.

This time deposits will cost the party £1,350, and as party funds this week stood at just over £140, the candidates will pay from their own pockets.

"Britain is the only country of comparable size in Europe which does not have regional government," Mr Mockler says.

They are, they insist, not separatists, and harbour no dreams of a Kingdom of Wessex free from the British Crown. They would just rather not be paying so much damage to London.

THE ISSUES

LAW AND ORDER

Battle over control of the police

By Peter Evans
Home Affairs Correspondent

Control of the police is the most controversial difference between the parties on law and order. Elected police authorities would be created by a Labour Government throughout the country, including London. They would have statutory responsibility for local police policy.

To handle complaints against police Labour would have an independent system "accountable to local communities with minority police representation". Labour's aim is open discussion on community councils between local people and police about "the quality and manner of police provision". Special patrol groups would be disbanded.

The Conservatives leave it for granted that, if elected, they would keep the Home Secretary as police authority for the Metropolitan Police in London. Outside London police authorities comprise two thirds county councillors and one third magistrates. Conservative abolition of big metropolitan councils would mean the creation of joint boards for the police and fire service.

The Alliance pledges to strengthen community representation on police authorities and encourage it in local police

The key facts on law and order are:

The prison population has jumped from 42,364 in May, 1979, to 44,832.

The Government says a constable's pay rose by 72 per cent between May, 1979, and last November, but extra pension contributions cut the last 10.3 per cent rise to 5.6 per cent.

Recorded crimes topped three million in England and Wales for the first time in 1982.

divisions. There would be an independent system to investigate serious complaints against police and a conciliation service.

The Conservatives also mean to re-introduce their controversial Police and Criminal Evidence Bill to increase police powers, though if it were passed Labour would repeal it. Conservatives promise more courts, more courtiers, attendance centres for "young hoodlums", 4,800 more places in 10 new prisons and more grounds for disqualifying ex-criminals from sitting on juries. And, where necessary, police establishments would be increased.

The Conservatives accept the case for an independent prosecution system and will consider how it might best be set up. But Labour gives a firm commitment to appoint public prosecutors in England and Wales similar to the procurators fiscal in Scotland.

Labour would reduce many maximum sentences for non-violent offenders to relieve the prison crisis. The legal aid scheme would be widened. And a "major initiative" to help victims would be launched.

The Alliance would incorporate the rights and freedoms of the European Convention on Human Rights in a new Bill of Rights for the United Kingdom and create a commission to help people bring proceedings.

Tomorrow: Conservation

Hailsham condemns Labour 'lunacies'

By Anthony Bevan, Political Correspondent

Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone said last night that the "lunacies" of Labour's manifesto would leave no room for freedom in Britain; they could only be achieved within the lifetime of a Parliament, by "the adoption of totalitarian methods."

The Lord Chancellor said in a speech at Oxford: "The first lunacy is to render us defenceless. The second is to deprive us of our export market and chance of attracting industry. The third is to ruin our savings, bankrupt our economy, create galloping inflation, raise our taxes and cripple our industries."

"But the fourth, and worst, is to deprive us of any right to continue to call ourselves a free country. Democratic socialism has been thrown out of the window, and all that is left of the party of Bevin and Attlee is the hideous grinning mask of elective dictatorship."

He said that no responsible parliamentarian could make Labour's manifesto promises and believes that they could be carried out "by ordinary democratic means": such was the

nature and sheer quantity of legislation and bureaucracy involved.

But Mr Neil Kinnock, Labour's spokesman on education, speaking at the Union of Communication Workers' conference in the Isle of Man, yesterday denounced Tory charges of Labour plans for coercion.

He said there was no coercion in restoring the freedom to earn wages, repair industry and use dependable services. Mr Kinnock said: "Britain is now ruled by a secret police force called unemployment, and the fear which it causes."

"We have the conscription of poverty, the regimentation of hospital and housing waiting lists, the uniformity of urban decay, the totalitarianism of slums."

Thatcherite Toryism was devoid of all decency. "We are just left with the spite, the ruthlessness, the self-righteousness and the stupidity. If Aneurin Bevan made his 'verbal' speech today, he would be accused of flattery understatement."

Christians urged to think afresh

By Robert Nowell

The Bishop of Winchester, Dr John Taylor, has said he is thankful that Britain has no political party claiming the title "Christian".

Writing in his diocesan magazine, the bishop said: "If such a party came into existence, I for one would fight shy of it - for any such claim implies that our Christianity, properly understood, must make us all think alike on political issues, which is clearly not the case, and it also implies that the other political parties are un-Christian."

He said that Christians should never be "blindly loyal" to the party they had always voted for but should look at the moral issues and make their minds up afresh.

Two great principles stood out for the Christian, Dr Taylor said. One was bias for the poor: "Any society which does not champion them stands against God's judgement."

The other was a balance of relationships in which the interests of each element in the community was given its due place.



Dr Taylor: Glad there is no Christian party.

Shelter attacks pledge to sell 2m council homes

By Baron Phillips, Property Correspondent

Conservative promises to sell off 2,000,000 more council homes if they are elected are under sharp attack from Shelter, the national campaign for the homeless. The organization says today that such plans could cost the country more than £40,000m through loss of council rental income and increased housing subsidies.

In its third Election Briefing Mr Neil McIntosh, Shelter director, says the bill for selling off council houses cheaply will have to be borne by tax and ratepayers and the remaining council tenants.

"The huge discounts mean bargain basement prices for those who are able to buy. But the policy still has to be paid for, and it will mean higher taxes, higher rates and higher rents. It is a very expensive way of promoting owner occupation," he said.

Shelter says that the commitment by Mr John Stanley, the

Minister of Housing, to sell a further 2,000,000 council homes will result in the loss of 80,000 lettings a year by local authorities.

The Conservative policy of selling council homes to tenants denies the opportunity of a decent home to people on local authority lists, it says.

Daffodil man's disappointment

An orange daffodil named Alliance among the exhibits at the Chelsea Flower Show yesterday may have provided some consolation for its owner's disappointment at the clash of dates which has prevented him standing in the general election.

Mr Michael Jefferson-Drown, a daffodil specialist of Marden, Westcombe, had intended to fight Walsall North for the Alliance but he decided that his job must come before politics.

Irish journalists ban all party interviews

From Our Correspondent, Dublin

Journalists at RTE, the Irish Republic's state-owned radio and television network, decided yesterday to black list the election campaign in 13 out of the 17 Northern Ireland constituencies.

Their action is a protest against the Dublin Government's continuing ban on interviews on either medium with members of Sinn Féin, the political wing of the Provisional IRA.

The journalists argue that they cannot adequately or fairly cover the election in Northern Ireland if they are prevented by law from interviewing certain candidates or from explaining their policies.

They feel that the ban is particularly wrong as several of the Sinn Féin candidates have a reasonable chance of taking seats.

Typically, most television viewers in the Republic, these

along the east coast and in northern counties, tune in regularly to BBC and Ulster television broadcasts where no such restrictions exist and interviews with all candidates, regardless of extremity, are commonplace.

The journalists' demand that the ban on Sinn Féin, imposed under section 31 of the Broadcasting Authority Act, be lifted for the Westminster election has the backing of the RTE authority, the governing body.

A statement after a National Union of Journalists meeting at the station's headquarters in Dublin yesterday said that in the interests of fair reporting, interviews in all constituencies where section 31 prevented the equal treatment of all candidates would be black listed. Only factual reporting would be provided.

Tomorrow: Conservation

Repatriation central to NF policy

By John Winder

The National Front does not expect to spend its time convincing people of the rightness of its policies, Mr Andrew Brons, the chairman, says in the personal letter with which the Front's manifesto, published yesterday, is prefaced.

He says that if every patriotic Briton who agreed fundamentally with National Front policies were to vote for the party it would win with a big majority in every seat contested. "All that is needed is for patriots to be true to themselves and vote according to conscience."

The Front is to field 61 candidates, almost all in urban seats. Mr Brons is standing in Leeds, East.

First in its manifesto, the Front puts race and immigration, pledging to put an end to a multicultural society and "to make a land fit for our children to grow up in". It would end all non-white immigration and institute a policy of phased repatriation.

On the economy, it says that usury is the root cause of all the other evils of capitalism.

The manifesto deals in detail with economic, social services, government and administration, law and order, defence, and foreign policies. It says that it is the state's duty to provide full employment and to protect the involuntarily unemployed from undue suffering.

The party proposes withdrawal from all internationalist bodies, including the United Nations, the EEC, Nato, the IMF and other such financial bodies. It proposes the abolition of the House of Lords.

Under law and order, it proposes the immediate deportation of black criminals and favours speedy suppression of all riots.

The retention of nuclear and conventional arms is favoured.

Councillor is bound over

Marion Chester, aged 28, Labour councillor for Camden, north London, who was bound over in the sum of £100 for a year by Highways Magistrates yesterday after throwing an egg at Mrs Margaret Thatcher's car as it was going into Euston station on May 14.

Livingstone says GLC will live on

By Michael Bailly, Transport Editor

Mr Kenneth Livingstone, who last week lost his chance of a seat in the new Parliament, gave a warning yesterday that a Conservative Government would fail in its effort to abolish the Greater London Council.

Speaking at a County Hall press conference with Mr Albert Booth, Labour's shadow transport spokesman, as Londoners enjoyed their first working day of new, cheap fares, Mr Livingstone indicated that Labour's cheap fares were the rock on which the Conservatives would founder.

Even if Mrs Thatcher won the election it would take two years to abolish the GLC, he said. By then London would be coming up for an election in which a further fares cut of 25 per cent would be a key Labour plank.

In these circumstances even a Conservative House of Commons would not vote for abolition of the GLC. After this weekend's cuts, when fares dropped by an average of 25 per cent at a cost of £20m on the routes, Labour would press ahead with service improvements on London's buses and tubes and would argue for more fares cuts.

Its eventual aim would be restoration of last year's "Fares Fair" levels which would require a further 25 per cent cut, and stability thereafter.

Mr Booth said Tory plans to abolish the GLC and other metropolitan counties raised a major election issue.

It would not only deprive people of cheap and efficient public transport in cities but also of the opportunity to choose their local transport policy through the ballot box. The Conservatives' intention to replace the GLC by a metropolitan transport authority for London was the height of hypocrisy in a party that prided itself on abolishing non-democratic quangos, Mr Booth said.

"There is no denying there is a cost to transport," Mr Booth said. "It is a choice between the cost of funding an effective public transport system or the cost of congestion, accidents, and inefficiency."

CONSTITUENCY PROFILE Ealing North

Lively times ahead

CANDIDATES:
Harry Greenway
Hilary Benn
Tony Miller

When the television computers begin their split-second analyses on election night, the result that will spark more than average excitement among the commentators will be that from Ealing North, one of the most marginal of the marginals.

Not only is the sitting Conservative in this west London constituency, Mr Harry Greenway, fighting to retain a seat he won in 1979 with a wafer thin majority of 1,480, but he has been handicapped under the boundary changes by losing a strong Tory ward with an estimated 3,000 votes to the adjoining Conservative constituency of Acton.

On top of that, the Labour candidate, selected 15 months ago, is Mr Hilary Benn, 29-year-old second son of the bete noire of British politics. He is a local councillor, well versed in parochial issues, is particularly involved in the Ealing controversy over education cuts, and already scents victory.

So, despite the protestations of the two leading candidates that their campaigns will be clean and not descend into personality assassination, in Ealing North there are a number of reasons to expect an entertaining punch-up.

Mr Greenway, aged 48, an active and energetic constituency MP and a former comprehensive school deputy headmaster, won the seat after 15 years of solid Labour domination. Now he believes he is



Mr Greenway: Tough fight after boundary change.

Profile of Ealing N

1981 % Own Occ	58.9
1981 % Loc Auth	32.0
1981 % Black/Asian	5.0
1981 % Mfg of	5.0
1981 % Prof man	18.0
1982 electorate	68,649
1979 BEC/ITN national result	Lab 51,400
1979 general election: Lab 51,400 (75.2%) vs. Greenway 15,249 (22.2%)	
1979 % of 18-24s: Lab 51,400 (75.2%) vs. Greenway 15,249 (22.2%)	

Key: % Owner Occ: proportion owning their own homes; % Loc auth: proportion of council tenants; % Black/Asian: proportion from New Commonwealth or Pakistan; % Mfg of: proportion of non-manual workers; % Prof man: proportion of professional, managerial, and administrative workers; BEC/ITN national result: calculation of what result would have been in 1979 if new boundary constituencies by joint BEC/ITN study team.

battling against "extreme left-wing socialism" but is confident that the middle-of-the-road Ealing electorate will not be persuaded away from him.

The Liberal, Mr Tony Miller, aged 48, a personal adviser and a veteran of several general election campaigns, is confident

of a big increase in the Alliance vote, despite the poor showing in 1979. He claims the Labour vote has been declining since 1974 and that in last May's local elections the Liberals captured 24 per cent of the vote. Mr Benn, he says, is further left than Mr Greenway is right, "but there is not a lot in it."

Ealing North is a mixed constituency of owner occupiers and council tenants, commuters and light industry ranging from a Mother's Pride bakery and Lyons Maid ice cream plant to a Glaxo pharmaceuticals factory. It is dissected by the busy and notorious A40 Western Avenue, one of the main London arteries, and overflown by jets on the approaches to Heathrow.

It is undistinguished and merges without much change of character into the other Ealing constituencies of Acton and Southall, the latter a superbly safe Labour seat.

Ealing North's political make-up is reflected in the local council which has 36 Conservative members, one independent Conservative, 30 Labour and three Liberals. It is, Mr Benn says, "a particularly reactionary Tory council."

The two main parties are bringing up the heavy guns for Ealing North: Mr Michael Heseltine and possibly the Prime Minister for the Conservatives' public meetings; Mr Denis Healey and Mr Neil Kinnock for Labour. Mr Miller is expecting no Alliance luminaries: "This election will be won on the doorsteps," he said.

Edward Townsend

CONSTITUENCY PROFILE Dudley, West

Boundary boost to Tories

CANDIDATES:
John Blackburn C
William Price Lab
Gerard Lewis Lib

John Blackburn, defending a slender 1,139 Conservative majority, considers there is too much sophistry about Dudley West, which is a hard-nosed Black Country seat if ever there was one, with 68 per cent owning their own homes.

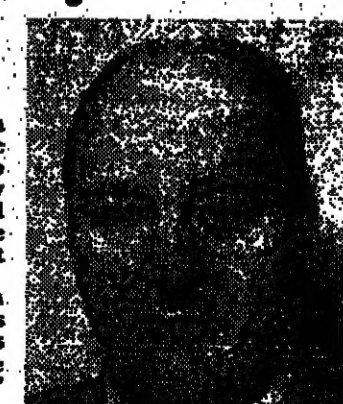
In 1979 he overturned an 8,500 Labour majority and says that 22 years as a resident has helped to build a personal vote and reduce it from the "critical" marginal category.

In the tradition of the theatre that "bums on seats" means success, he maintains that "money in the bucket" passed around at his adoption meeting is a reasonably firm indicator that the constituency will return him. In 1979 the "bucket" produced £475 to help the fight and last Monday (May 16) it produced a gratifying £1,880.

Boundary changes have also helped boost his confidence. He has usefully gained support from the neighbouring Edlesborough and Stourbridge seats to Labour-held Dudley East.

A large private development of 4,700 private homes at Ambleside, on former drift mining land, although only partly built, is welcomed.

He said the constituency had an unemployment rate of 10.8 per cent and so far the subject has not been of paramount importance on the doorstep. His fight against the closing of the Round Oak steelworks with the loss of 1,400 jobs won him many friends.



Mr Blackburn: Defending slender majority.

Profile of Dudley West

1981 % Own Occ	68
1981 % Loc Auth	32
1981 % Black/Asian	4
1981 % Mfg of	4
1981 % Prof man	16
1982 electorate	77,422
1979 BEC/ITN national result	Lab 51,400
1979 general election: Lab 51,400 (75.2%) vs. Blackburn 15,249 (22.2%)	
1979 % of 18-24s: Lab 51,400 (75.2%) vs. Blackburn 15,249 (22.2%)	

Oddly, the closure has produced a spin-off of sorts in that £350,000 is now being paid by the EEC to retrain redundant

Tomorrow: Crawley, Norwich N and S

Black Country workers, including many from Round Oak. He said that many had no wish to see Britain sever its bonds with Brussels.

The constituency's biggest employers, with 2,100 workers, have become the hand-made

crystal glass firms such as Royal Brierley and Staris.

Mr Blackburn said: "It is a good challenge. Although it is a marginal, it is not a critical one and I think we will hold it."

Mr William Price, who held Rugby for Labour from 1966 to 1979 and was responsible for information services under Harold Wilson, acknowledged after 18 months in the seat that it was a difficult one to read. He said the boundary changes had not been kind to him.

He said Mr Blackburn's 10.8 per cent unemployment figure was a national one and well short of reality. In Brierley Hill it was 25 per cent and nearer 18 per cent elsewhere. Other matters of crucial importance were the Conservative-controlled Dudley council's poor record on education provision, welfare and housing.

Gerard Lewis, the Liberal, who is the student councillor at the local college of technology, said a preliminary canvass showed a lot of people were still undecided, which was an encouraging indicator for him.

He said: "I think we have a chance of taking the seat. At the moment, we are trailing in the polls but I don't think they

Israeli medical system near collapse as doctors continue strike

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem

The entire Israeli medical system appeared on the verge of collapse last night as thousands of doctors pledged to continue their strike despite government threats of prison sentences and grim reports of most hospital services being near a halt.

For the second day hospitals were manned by only a tenth of their staff and there was no prospect of replacement under the uncompromising method in which the doctors have chosen to escalate their strike which began three months ago.

After 48 hours on duty, a

number of doctors are already reported to have collapsed from fatigue. Last night one doctor at Haifa's Ramban Hospital which treated many of the worst casualties of the Lebanon war, predicted that it was only hours until "the physical consequences" of the action were felt.

There were reports of emergency teams of doctors in hiding near the main hospitals in case of the need to respond to incidents such as a terrorist attack. But among patients there was a growing mood of anxiety such as in the largest

hospital in Beersheba where 150 maternity patients were being treated by two doctors.

The confrontation is one of the most grave and most bizarre in Israel's turbulent history of labour relations. Because the doctors fled en masse from their homes and hospitals to avoid receiving the documents ordering them to return to work, most were in resorts and camping sites yesterday when the crucial decision on whether to continue the strike had to be taken.

The largest gathering was held on the biblical shores of the Sea of Galilee.

The doctors are demanding a virtual doubling of their salaries while the Government is flatly refusing to go beyond its offer of 22 per cent for fear of provoking a damaging flood of pay claims in an economy already reeling under annual inflation of 160 per cent.

The strike has caused angry exchanges between Cabinet members. Mr Yoram Aridor, the Finance Minister, claimed at the weekend that some doctors already earned more than £1,000 a month. This was ridiculed by Mr Eliezer Shostak, the Health Minister, who claimed that to reach such figures a normal doctor would have to work about 400 hours a month.



West gets Namibia lash at UN

From Zoriana Pysariwsky, New York

After almost two years Black Africa has broken its silence on Namibia with a vengeance in the Security Council. Dozens of its ministers gathered here yesterday to inveigh against South Africa for maintaining without a hint of reprieve the last African colonial enclave and against the West for negotiating beyond the threshold of African patience.

The debate, despite pleas by the five-nation Western contact group negotiating Namibia's future for a continuation of the

uneasy silence, is more a measure of African frustration than of a sense of mission. Faced with South Africa's unreined military might, the feeling that the continent could rise to the challenge of adversity has been replaced by one of powerlessness.

For its part, the Western contact group of Britain, France, Canada, the United States and West Germany will have a lot of explaining to do. Their six-year effort to bring Namibia to independence has

throughout appeared to be near success without ever reaching it. Their inability to secure a settlement has given rise to speculation ranging from simple ineptitude to more Machiavellian interpretations.

The linkage of the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola with the United Nations plan, envisaging an interim administration backed by United Nations peace-keeping forces, is expected to be a further bone of contention during the debate.

Uniform clash at Zimbabwe trial

From Stephen Taylor, Harare

After almost nine months in custody and a final delay caused by a dispute between state and defence lawyers, six white Zimbabwe Air Force officers came to trial in the High Court yesterday to answer charges that they assisted three South African saboteurs in the devastating attack on Thornhill Air Base last July.

A day in which claims that the officers had been members of a traitorous "sabotage committee" were countered by defence allegations that they were tortured under interrogation began with a row over their dress.

When the six men filed into court for the first time, smiling and waving to relatives in the public gallery, they wore full Air Force uniforms and medals.

Mr Honor Mkhushi, appearing for the state, objected to the uniforms and after argument involving Mr Harry Ognall, QC, who is appearing for the defence, police and the officers themselves, they were escorted down to the cells.

Mr Justice Dumbutshe said the question of dress should have been settled beforehand. The officers could wear uniforms if the Air Force did not forbid it, but he made it plain he did not want them in prison clothes.

When the trial resumed the officers appeared in civilian clothes.

The accused are Air Vice-Marshal Hugh Slater, Air Commodore Philip Pile, Wing Commander John Cox, Air Lieutenant Barrington Lloyd and Air Lieutenant Neville Weir.

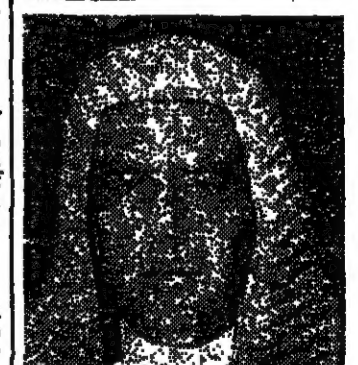
In a summary of the state's case Mr Mkhushi said the officers, who had enjoyed the trust of the state, had conspired with agents of a foreign power to leave Zimbabwe defenceless and vulnerable.

The plot had been hatched in December 1980 with the creation of the "sabotage committee", Mr Mkhushi said, but it had only been put into effect after the arrival of four new Hawk aircraft from Britain last year.

The Hawks, eight Hawker Hunters and a reconnaissance aircraft were destroyed or badly damaged when incendiary devices exploded at Thornhill near Gweru on July 25. The Financial loss was well over 7m Zimbabwe dollars (about £4.5m).

The six actively assisted three South African saboteurs who may have used road and air transport to enter and leave Zimbabwe undetected. The accused had admitted their guilt freely and any allegations that they had been mistreated under interrogation were a "complete fabrication", he added.

Outlining the defence case Mr Ognall said that all six accused had been mistreated in custody and had been denied access to lawyers before making warned-and-cautioned statements. The statements were false and had not been given voluntarily. Slater, Briscoe, Cox and Lloyd, who had persistently maintained their innocence, only made incriminating statements after being hooded, assaulted and subjected to electric shock treatment, Mr Ognall said.



Mr Ognall, QC: Defending the six officers.

Lebanese kidnappers free Maronite bishop

From Our Correspondent, Beirut

The Maronite Bishop of Tyre, the Most Rev Youssef Khoury, who was kidnapped yesterday afternoon, was released after being detained for several hours, a police source said.

The prelate, his driver and sacristan were all freed unharmed as the result of contacts undertaken by the country's top religious and political authorities.

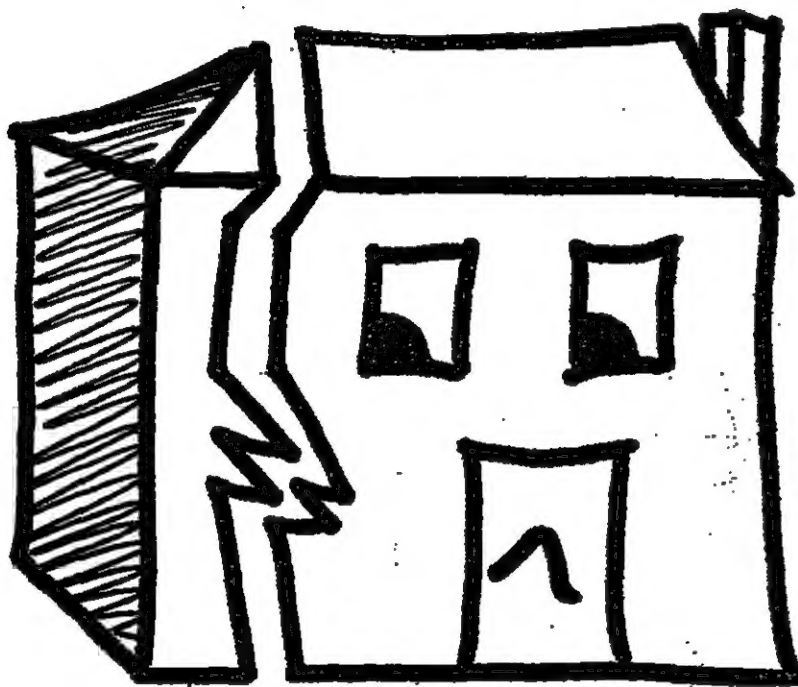
They were kidnapped by armed men in the area of

Khalde, on the southern outskirts of the Lebanese capital.

The kidnapping occurred in the same place where the troop withdrawal agreement between Israel and Lebanon was signed on May 17.

The area is still controlled by Israeli forces, and there have been hints and accusations, by both Druze and Christian leaders, that the Israelis were not doing their best to prevent violence in areas under their control.

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Sakharov's wife in police siege

Moscow - Police have placed Mrs Yelena Bonner, wife of Dr Andrei Sakharov, the dissident physicist, under siege, and are refusing to allow Western correspondents to enter the Sakharovs' flat in central Moscow, Richard Owen writes.

Yesterday Mrs Bonner telephoned Western correspondents from a public call box and said: "I am surrounded by police".

When reporters arrived there was no sign of Mrs Bonner, and the policemen outside said it was "forbidden to see Yelena Georgievna today".

£44m fines

Rome (Reuters) - Fines totalling 100 billion lire (£44m) were imposed by Italy's highest financial court on General Raffaele Giudice and Signor Donato Lo Prete, customs officials involved in petrol tax evasion.

Coup fails

Madrid (AFP) - An attempt to overthrow the military regime of Lieutenant-Colonel Teodoro Obiang Nguema has failed in Equatorial Guinea, according to Mr Francisco Javier El Abeme, the exiled leader of a group of opposition movements.

High and dry

Miyazaki, Japan (AFP) - Thirty whales which beached themselves in the extreme south of Japan may have lost their sense of direction because of eardrum inflammations, according to university researchers.

Thaw ruled out

Wellington (Reuters) - New Zealand's wage and price freeze, imposed last July, will remain in force until the end of February, Mr Robert Muldoon, the Prime Minister, announced.

Beetles threat

Warsaw - Poland has been hit by a swarm of Colorado beetles which could seriously threaten the potato harvest. There is a serious shortage of pesticide.

Translator takes up reins of Solzhenitsyn Fund

From Richard Owen, Moscow

Although the Solzhenitsyn Fund for political prisoners is being publicly derided in Russia and its organizers are under intense KGB pressure, a relatively unknown 46-year-old translator has stepped forward as the new administrator.

Mr Andrei Kistyakovskiy, who lives in Moscow, is aware of the risks he is running at a time when the fund's Leningrad coordinator is on trial.

In March, Mr Valery Repin made a public confession on television and said the fund was a pawn of the Central Intelligence Agency. Mr Repin, whose trial began last week, said the fund could not possibly exist on royalties from Mr Solzhenitsyn's works alone.

Last month, Mr Sergei Khodkovskiy, the fund's overall administrator, was arrested and charged with disseminating fabrications which slandered the Soviet Union. Mr Kistyakovskiy says he knows he may well suffer the same fate, "but sometimes there are things more important than one's personal freedom".

Mr Kistyakovskiy, slightly built, with a shock of brown hair, and a moustache, was a lorry driver before he went to university and trained as a linguist.

In a statement, he said the Solzhenitsyn Fund was entirely charitable.

All ministers and MPs surrendered office earlier this month when President Banda dissolved Parliament.

Prisoners of conscience, page 8

Ministers 'died in crash'

Harare (Reuters) - Three powerful men in the country, identified the others as Mr Aaron Gadamu former Central Region Minister and Mr John Sangala, the former Health Minister. The name of the MP was heard only as Chiwanga.

Secret testimony undercuts official line

CIA chief predicts Nicaragua coup

Washington (NYT) William Mr Casey, the Director of Central Intelligence, is predicting that American-supported Nicaraguan rebels have a good chance of overthrowing the Sandinista Government by the end of the year. He and Mr Thomas Enders Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs, made the prediction in secret testimony to congressional committees.

They said that anti-Government forces in Nicaragua were planning a steady increase in fighting this summer, culminating later in the year in a pincer-style assault on Managua, the capital.

The prediction, by Mr Casey and Mr Enders, seems to undercut the Administration's long standing assertion that US support for the rebel groups is primarily aimed at stopping arms shipments to guerrillas in



Mr Casey: Evidence raises questions

El Salvador which it says flow through Nicaragua.

"A Democrat member of the House intelligence committee said: 'The descriptions we heard, even though they included lots of qualifications about how the rebels were

building up their own momentum, have much more in common with President Reagan's reference to them as freedom fighters than the official claim that we are providing covert aid only to prevent arms shipments.'

Although members of Congress are sceptical about the Administration's expectations, intelligence and Defence Department officials consider the prospect of a military victory to be plausible.

"We were told that there are 7,000 rebels and their numbers are growing", a Republican member of the Senate intelligence committee said. "The scenario they presented has the rebels picking up more and more popular support, which will produce desertions in the Nicaraguan military, all setting the stage for a drive on Managua that forces the

Government out of power. They think it can work."

A senior national security official familiar with covert operations in Nicaragua, said that one force attacking Managua would come from the north, near the Nicaragua-Honduras border, where the largest group of rebels have been operating.

A second front east of Managua would be opened by insurgents composed primarily of Misquito Indians who fled from their homeland along Nicaragua's Atlantic coast in recent years, he said.

A Southern front would be manned by forces under the command of Lida Pastora Gomez, a leader of the revolution that overthrew President Somoza in 1979. Senor Pastora, known as Commander Zero during the Sandinista insurrection, defected from the Nicaraguan Government last year

Three-week rains deluge three states

Rio de Janeiro (Reuters) - Flood waters in southern Brazil, which have caused at least 23 deaths, have begun to recede, but the situation in neighbouring areas of Argentina and Paraguay remained critical.

Three weeks of rain in the state of Rio Grande do Sul have destroyed crops and made some 4,000 people homeless. Farmers estimate that they have lost one million tonnes of the expected six million tonnes soya bean crop.

In Argentina more than 150,000 people were made homeless by floods in five northern provinces, and in Paraguay about 120,000 have been affected.

Burma purges top official

Bangkok (Reuters) - Brigadier Tin Oo, aged 55, until last week one of Burma's most powerful men, has been dropped from all official positions and is now a non-person, according to diplomatic sources.

They said his attempts to build a power base outside the military hierarchy led General Ne Win, the country's leader to order his removal from his third-ranking post in the ruling Burma Socialist Programme Party.

Madrid Mass

Mother Teresa of Calcutta in Madrid yesterday for a Mass organized by anti-abortion campaigners.

The Queen has sent a message of sympathy to RAF Coltsall, Norfolk, which lost six men in a coach crash in the Black Forest, West Germany on Saturday.

Editor goes

Kampala (Reuters) - Mr Epajjar Ejulu, Editor-in chief of the government-owned Uganda Times, has been dismissed and replaced by Mr Wilson Mukasa, former editor of the Sunday Times.

Inquiry opens

Singapore (AFP) - An inquiry has begun into last January's accident in which two cable cars plunged 200ft into the sea, killing seven people.

Low tension

Peking (Reuters) - Underground hotels with more than 60,000 beds have been created out of air raid shelters built in the late 1960s, when Sino-Soviet tension was at its height.

Violence certain on peak day of French protest

French students are planning mass demonstrations throughout the country today, the culmination of a month of strikes and protests, as Parliament begins debating the controversial Bill to reform higher education. The day is expected to end in violence, as a few right-wing elements will be doing their utmost to ensure that it does.

In Paris, three main demonstrations are planned this afternoon, broadly representing the right, the left and centrist non-aligned tendencies. All have the National Assembly as their ultimate goal. While the groups differ widely in their criticisms of the Bill, they all want the Bill deferred until the autumn to give more time for consultation.

The reforms are complex, but basically they are aimed at increasing the number of students admitted to university by operating an "open door" policy for all those with the baccalaureat, operating a great-

'Shoot-out' victim had broken skull

From Andrew Thompson, Buenos Aires

A post-mortem examination of the multiple skull fractures of a left-wing Peronist who police claimed was killed in a shoot-out on May 14, has shown that his skull was fractured.

Dr Luz Maria Obligado, acting for his family, said a test also suggested that Senor Cambiaso had not used fire arms, as claimed by police. His family and human rights organizations claim he was kidnapped and killed.

Dr Obligado said it was

difficult to determine the cause of the multiple skull fractures. A bullet had been extracted from the head, but, as this was the second post-mortem examination, it was impossible to determine the angle of entry.

Political repercussions of the case also involving the death of an alleged left-wing Montonero guerrilla, Senor Eduardo Pereira Rossi, have widened.

The military government has published a document, said to be based on papers found on

another alleged Montonero killed by police in Cordoba province on April 30, linking a sector of the Peronist party to "subversive plans".

Many politicians and newspapers question the government claims. If the incriminating documents were discovered on April 30, they ask, why did the Government wait three weeks to disclose them. There are fears that it is trying to make out that there is an upsurge in left-wing guerrilla activities.



Academic image: Bianca Jagger, ex-wife of rock star Mick Jagger, after receiving an honorary doctorate from Stonehill College, Massachusetts, for work in her native Nicaragua.

Reagan begs Khomeini to spare 22 Bahais

From Mohsin Ali Washington

President Reagan is asking world leaders to join him in appealing to Ayatollah Khomeini and the rest of the Iranian leadership not to carry out death sentences against 22 prominent members of the Bahai faith.

He said at the weekend that the US and the world were increasingly alarmed and dismayed by the persecution and repression of the Bahais in Iran.

In the first presidential public statement of this kind on the Bahais which coincided with the anniversary of their founding in 1844, he said: "Recently we have learned that the Government of Iran has sentenced 22 prominent members of the Bahai faith to death. These individuals have not plotted the overthrow of the regime and they are not responsible for the deaths of anyone. Sparing their lives would be a step forward for Iran and the world community."

More than 130 members of the Bahai faith had already been killed since the start of the Iranian revolution. Several resolutions have been passed by Congress on behalf of Iran's Bahais who number between 300,000 and 400,000. The faith claims more than two million followers in some 150 countries.

Vietnamese ex-Premier among boat refugees

Singapore (Reuters) - A former Prime Minister of South Vietnam was among a boatload of refugees which arrived in Singapore, a United Nations official here said yesterday.

Mr Nguyen Van Loc, Prime Minister in Saigon for seven months in 1967-68, arrived with 32 other "boat people" on May 13 after being picked up by a French cargo ship.

Mr Loc, aged 62, said he had left Ho Chi Minh City six months ago and escaped from a port in southern Vietnam at his fourteenth attempt.

France has guaranteed to resettle him and the 32 others now in Singapore's only refugee camp, a UN spokesman said.

HONGKONG: A group of 14 refugees from Vietnam have decided not to remain in Hongkong but to sail instead to Taiwan because they would not accept prison-style living conditions in Hongkong's new "closed camps", Richard Hughes writes.

The first refugees to have rejected Hongkong as a sanctuary while waiting for resettlement abroad, they had arrived in a crowded vessel on Friday.

Discovering that a "closed camp" awaited them, the 12 ethnic Vietnamese and two ethnic Chinese, all men, accepted food and water to last for 10 days and departed on Sunday.

They said they had left Vietnam on April 15. If so, they must have stopped for provisions or rest at a Chinese port.

Bomb wave rocks Corsica

From Diana Geddes Paris

The outlawed National Liberation Front of Corsica has claimed responsibility for the most serious wave of bomb attacks in Corsica since the night of bombings last August which ended the separatist movement's official "truce" with the Government.

By yesterday afternoon, 39 attacks and nine attempted attacks had been reported throughout the island since Sunday causing extensive damage but no injuries except in Corte where a young man, believed to have been attaching a bomb to a car, was hurt.

The man, identified, according to informed sources, as M. Christian Berfini, aged 27, was flown yesterday in a critical state to a hospital in Marseilles. His face and neck were severely injured in the blast and his hands and ears reportedly torn off.

The main targets for the attacks, which began just three weeks before President Mitterrand's planned visit to the island on June 13 and 14, were shops, holiday homes, offices, banks, and cars belonging to "continentals" from mainland France. More than 400 bomb attacks have been carried out in Corsica since the beginning of the year.

Several arrests were immediately made by the island's police, who had scored many singular successes in their fight against terrorism since the appointment last January of Mr Robert Broussard, France's best-known "supercop" as head of security in Corsica.

The latest attack is seen as an attempt by the much weakened Nationalists (FLNC) to show that it is still active.

At the scene of each of the latest explosions, tracts signed by the FLNC, which is seeking Corsican independence from France, were found declaring: "By means of a special statute without real power (setting up the island's new decentralized assembly) and above all by launching a campaign of slander and 'criminalization' against the FLNC, the French Government is trying to hide the danger that confronts our people, who are already in a minority and who will soon be totally assimilated into the French culture. The FLNC will remain for as long as the historic people of Corsica have breath in their bodies."

Violence certain on peak day of French protest

From Our Own Correspondent, Paris

French students are planning mass demonstrations throughout the country today, the culmination of a month of strikes and protests, as Parliament begins debating the controversial Bill to reform higher education. The day is expected to end in violence, as a few right-wing elements will be doing their utmost to ensure that it does.

In Paris, three main demonstrations are planned this afternoon, broadly representing the right, the left and centrist non-aligned tendencies. All have the National Assembly as their ultimate goal. While the groups differ widely in their criticisms of the Bill, they all want the Bill deferred until the autumn to give more time for consultation.

The reforms are complex, but basically they are aimed at increasing the number of students admitted to university by operating an "open door" policy for all those with the baccalaureat, operating a great-

er selection of students for specialized studies at the end of two years of general studies; and making courses much more relevant to the needs of industry and society.

In other words, the Government hopes to introduce greater dirigisme into higher education in the interests of manpower planning, but apparently at the expense of free student choice. That is the students' greatest fear, which is exacerbated by the vagueness of many of the proposals.

The Bill does not say, for example, who will decide which students go to which universities or courses after the first two year general studies course, nor how they will be chosen. It simply talks of competitive examinations for "certain" courses.

The number of places for a particular course will depend on the ability of a university to provide it, and on the number of jobs thought likely to be available for graduates.

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Pym preparing last-ditch attempt to secure EEC budget concessions

From Ian Murray, Brussels

Mr Francis Pym, the Foreign Secretary, makes a final pre-election attempt in Brussels today to reach agreement with the other Community Foreign Ministers on the amount of money Britain can expect back from the EEC for its 1983 budget contributions.

If he succeeds, it would be an unexpected bonus for the Thatcher Government before polling day. If he fails, he will be seeking some face-saving form of words to help the Government to gloss over the unpopular subject in the election campaign.

Much of the urgency has been taken out of this meeting by the decision to postpone a European summit until after the British elections. The West

German president of the Council of Ministers even tried to have the whole subject of finance dropped from today's agenda.

But the British Government insisted on having a thorough discussion on the whole difficult question of the Community's finances, which indicates that Mrs Thatcher is determined to wring some kind of concession out of the meeting to help her in the election campaign.

There are two essential questions at issue. Britain sees them basically as separate, but most other countries, led by France, see them as inextricably intertwined.

The first question is: How much money should Britain be given in a rebate for 1983? The

second is: How should the future financing of the Community be organized to stop it going bankrupt? Britain argues that it will take so long to find an answer to the second question that it is bound to need a rebate this year, and probably next, to tide it over until matters are better organized.

France argues it is impossible to negotiate rebates for Britain until such time as the Community has worked out where it is going financially in the long term. Essentially, France is determined to see an increase in the amount of money available to the Community, while Britain is determined to resist any such ideas unless and until something is done to cut back agricultural spending.

Mr Pym is under orders to get as far as he can towards finding an answer to the first question by this evening. If we cannot come up with a figure he must at least be able to emerge with a commitment that such a figure can be agreed by the rearranged summit on June 17 to 19, which Mrs Thatcher, of course, has every intention of attending.

A further Foreign Ministers' meeting has been pencilled in for June 13, when negotiations could be resumed with whoever is British Foreign Secretary.



Stripped for action: Refitting of the liner Conard Countess proceeds apace in a Malta drydock. The Malta Drydocks Corporation, who beat other shipyards for the work, are contracted to meet an early June deadline.

Conflict in Sweden on whether Queen deserves a curtsy

By Richard Dowden

The Queen and the duke of Edinburgh arrive in Stockholm tomorrow for a three-day state visit to Sweden. The Queen was last in Sweden in 1956.

They are travelling on the royal yacht Britannia and will be staying with King Carl Gustaf and Queen Sylvia at the royal palace in Stockholm.

The tour will include a walkabout in the old town of Stockholm, a visit to the Hasselblad factory, which makes cameras used in the Nasa space programme, and a visit to a home for deaf children which is sponsored by Queen Sylvia.

It ends with a banquet on the royal yacht on Friday evening, and the Queen and the Duke fly back to Britain on Saturday.

Lord Belstead, Minister of State at the Foreign Office was to have accompanied the Queen but his visit has been cancelled because of the general election.

Although the ruling Social Democrat Party is officially pledged to the abolition of the monarchy, Sweden is unlikely to become a republic in the foreseeable future.

The monarchy's popularity has grown in the last few years and King Carl told British journalists recently that he hoped to pass on his throne to his daughter, Crown Princess Victoria who, under the 1980 succession law, is the heir to the throne.

The monarchy in Sweden, however, has a purely ceremonial and representative role. King Carl's own motto, "For Sweden - in keeping with the times", demonstrates his willingness to fit in with Sweden's informal, democratic and socialist system.

● STOCKHOLM: The biggest talking point concerning the Queen and the Duke's visit, is whether the aggressively liberated women members of the new Social Democrat Government will refuse to curtsy when they are introduced to the Queen, at a diplomatic reception in the royal palace, Christopher Moberg writes.

During the last British royal visit in 1956, Miss Ulla Lindstrom, a junior minister, created something of a social sensation by choosing to bow.

This time, the early indications are that her stand (which would seem to be the right word in the circumstances) will be followed by the five women in the Prime Minister, Mr Olof Palme's present administration.

"Curtsy to an English queen? Never. Why should I?" Mrs Gertrud Sigurdson, deputy Social Affairs Minister, said in a survey conducted by the liberal evening newspaper *Expressen*, which is taking a lively interest in the visit. This is in marked contrast to the lukewarm coverage of its principal competitor, *Aftonbladet*, which is owned by the Confederation of Trade Unions and takes a rigid Social Democrat line.

Mrs Anna Greta Leijon, the Employment Minister, said: "I never curtsy to the (Swedish) King, so there is no reason to do so for Elizabeth."

Mrs Birgitta Dahl, the Energy Minister, and Mrs Anita Gradien, Immigration Minister, also said they would not curtsy, but would simply greet the Queen politely.

US explains in Peking why exports are curbed

From David Bonavia, Peking

Mr Malcolm Baldrige, the United States Commerce Secretary, who is visiting China, yesterday justified his government's policy of restricting certain exports to China.

He said he was interested in "overall trade patterns" rather than minor disputes and would not comment on reports that the United States had put pressure on the Belgian Government not to sell a telecommunications computer system with US-made components to China.

Mr Baldrige said he had been sent by President Reagan to confirm that the US "valued relations with China".

The previous evening, Mr Chen Muhua, Minister of Foreign Economic Relations and Trade, told Mr Baldrige that the US should take effective measures to remove obstacles to trade between the two countries.

Trade relations are at a 10-year low because American law restricts exports of high-technology equipment and imports of Chinese textiles have been restricted. Arms sales to Taiwan also contribute to the dispute.

Trade between the US and China last year was worth \$5.3 billion (£3.4b) with a US surplus of \$630m.

Nimeiry to split up rebel south

Khartum (Reuters, AFP). President Nimeiry of Sudan has decided to divide the mainly African south of the country into three regions, each with a caretaker governor and Cabinet, in an attempt to quell unrest in the area.

The official Sudan News Agency (Suna) said the President took the decision as part of his decentralization policies and to soothe disputes between bitter rivals in the southern region.

It said the President would appoint for each region a governor, ministers and provincial commissioners for a transitional period of 18 months. Each region would have its own people's assembly.

The south, which has enjoyed autonomous rule since 1972 after 17 years of war with the Muslim north, is a poor and sparsely populated part of Sudan.

The proposed regions have yet to be designated, but Suna said the capitals would be the towns of Malakal, Wau and Juba. Until 1972 southern Sudan consisted of the three provinces of Upper Nile, Bahr al Ghazal and Equatoria, with the same three towns as their respective administrative centres.

The President's decision, to be announced formally during this week's celebrations to mark the fourteenth anniversary of his rule, was believed to have been prompted by recent signs of dissent in the south after a decade of calm.

Early last year, he said he was considering dividing the south into smaller regions. But he scrapped the plan because of what he said was his concern for the region's unity.

The move was also believed to facilitate Khartum's dealings with the south, which has complained about the slow pace of its development.

● CAIRO: President Mubarak of Egypt flew to Khartum yesterday to join President Nimeiry for the inaugural session of the Nile Parliament, one of the pillars of the programme launched last October for unifying the two countries, Robert Hottoway writes.

The Assembly, comprising 60 carefully selected deputies from each country, will hold its first meeting on Wednesday after General Nimeiry is sworn in. General Nimeiry, who originally seized power on May 25, 1969, was re-elected unopposed last month in a referendum in which more than 99 per cent of the votes were said to have been cast in his favour.

Prisoners of conscience



Malawi: The Chirwas

By Caroline Moorehead

Mr Orton Chirwa, Malawi's former Minister of Justice and Attorney-General, and his wife Vera, have been convicted of treason for attempting to "overthrow the Malawi Government" and sentenced to death.

Observers fear that their appeal, lodged after their trial on May 5 with the National Traditional Court of Appeal, may be handled with no greater legal competence or regard for internationally accepted standards of justice than their trial, which was conducted in the Traditional Court at Soche, Blantyre, and presided over by five chiefs who are not required to have any form of legal training.

The defendants were allowed no legal counsel. The appeal is not expected to succeed.

Concern over the Chirwas has also increased in recent days after Malawi radio reported that two Malawi cabinet ministers were missing, and the *Sunday Mail* newspaper in Harare later reported that they had died mysteriously.

Mr Orton Chirwa went into exile soon after Malawi became independent in the mid-1960s, because of plot allegations by President Banda against him and five other cabinet ministers.

While in Tanzania he formed Mafimero, one of three externally based political organizations opposed to President Banda's Government.

Mr Chirwa, photographed during a visit to Britain in 1959.

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The American connexion

The man holding the prices steady at Apple

Apple UK's managing director, Peter Cobb, appears straightforward to the point of bluntness. Asked to define his role in the company, he volunteers: "Ultimately my job is to earn dollars for the United States shareholders of Apple."

In the light of the pound's continually see-sawing exchange rate against the dollar, it is an increasingly uphill task. Apple had its most successful quarter's results in the UK in the run-up to last Christmas, but this was before the pound slipped back to a little over one and a half dollars. Apple builds its IIE and IIF computers in its factory in Cork, which sells its products to the UK operation priced in US dollars.

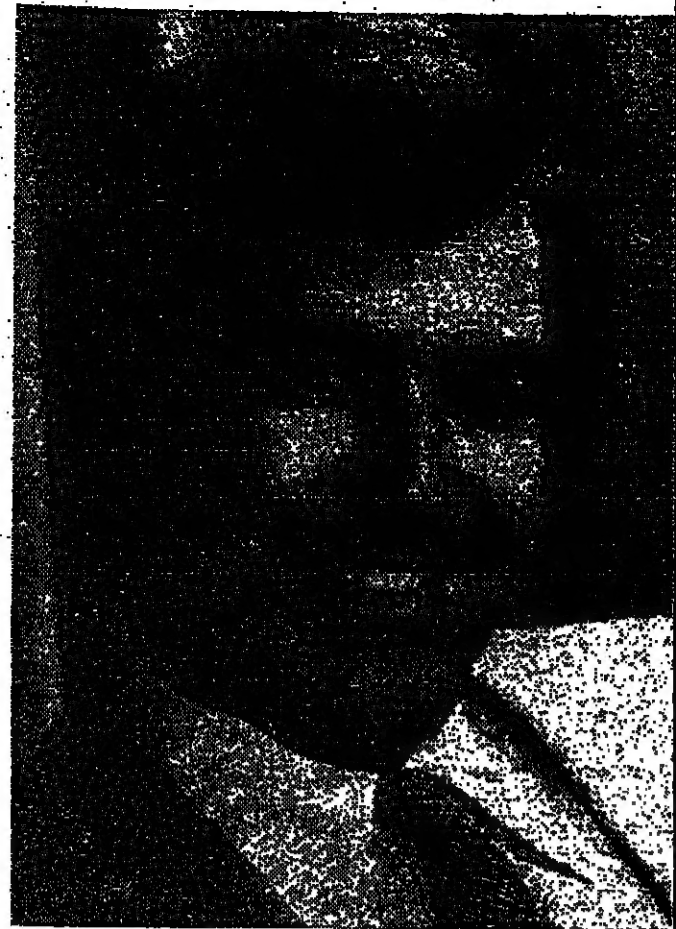
Cobb says he is committed to holding the prices steady, despite the fluctuations in the exchange rate this year which have seen the pound fall from around \$1.60, down to \$1.45, and then back up to \$1.54. "There are all sorts of wrinkles to this thing," he says. "Where is the product bought, how long forward, managing exchange exposures. There's a whole sophisticated exercise going on designed to avoid the consumer having to cough up simply because the exchange rate is low. That's not good business practice."

Cobb's views were put to the test in the most recent slide: "If the pound had stayed at \$1.45 we would have had to do something about it. No matter what sort of financial witchcraft you use, you can't protect yourself totally against that sort of hazard. As an importer I'd ideally like the rate as high as possible. If the pound/dollar rate got to two then you really would see some changes in the pricing of Apple products in the UK."

As one of the first of the Apple own-employees "commando" which was recruited from among European semiconductor personnel to knock some shape into Apple distribution in 1979, Cobb's job was to manage the financial side of the new Apple-owned European distribution set-up, which until then had been handled by a variety of local distributors reporting to an umbrella organisation in Paris. Among the tools used for the job were financial modelling programs running on Apple's own microcomputers. Those programs are still in use.

Before joining Apple, Peter Cobb had spent five years in Brussels as European financial controller of Intel Corporation, the semiconductor manufacturer, but was lured back to the UK by the offer of a start in commodity trading in 1978. "Financial people are lucky," he says. "It's relatively easy for them to change industry, whereas engineers or service people must have the background experience in that discipline."

But his new start had lasted only a few weeks when his former boss at Intel, Tom Lawrence, now general manager of Apple in Europe, asked Cobb to start work for him as financial controller of Apple back in Brussels the following Monday. He took the job on the



Peter Cobb: ironing out the wrinkles

understanding that the UK general management would eventually become his.

"I didn't want to be the chief bean counter for another big American company for another five years, that was not the way I wanted my career to go. It was a pity in way, because I enjoyed the commodity business."

Cobb succeeded to the general management in the UK sooner than he expected. In the first instance he had to assist the US management to settle with Microsense, the UK dealer group which had exclusive rights to distribute Apple's wares in the UK under a deal struck in 1978 with Andre Soussou, who represented Apple in Europe.

The terms of Apple's buy-out of Microsense have never been revealed. Cobb reveals only that they were "generous". But in the end it was the ill-health of Mike Brewer which accelerated his retirement as managing director of Microsense and Cobb's preference to the managing directorship last March.

Cobb, who was joined shortly after his appointment by Keith Hall, recruited from Apple's competitors Commodore to take charge of sales, has presided over a steady refinement - some would say purge - of Apple's dealers in Britain.

Until recently Apple had come in for criticism for its high prices and ageing product line, but this has not inhibited sales. Its strongest selling machine has been its Apple II - essentially the same machine as invented by the company's founders Steve Jobs and Steve Wozniak in a California garage in 1976, but recently overhauled to provide more power and simplify construction.

The reduced build cost and keen pricing of newer machines from competitors had been widely expected to lead to a price cut, but none has yet been effected; nor, with the pound standing at \$1.50-odd, does one appear imminent.

In any case, Cobb says that the IIE is correctly positioned in its market and sees no need to reduce the price, which allows the dealer a healthy margin as in incentive to provide service back-up. So far the UK market has been little affected by the so-called "Chinese copies" of the Apple, which can cost as little as US\$200-300 in Taiwan and Hongkong and which have attracted international legal action from the US parent company.

Cobb believes that the major part of personal computer sales lies with business people, where price is less critical than the ability to supply a system complete with professional advice.

Martin Hayman

From Wembley to micros

United's Cup goalie dives into computers

Few of the millions who watched Manchester United and Brighton in Saturday's FA Cup Final can know that Gary Bailey, the blond giant guarding United's goal, has another, more restrained career, in the world of computers.

After two years' study at a South African university before coming to Britain, Bailey gained a BSc degree at Manchester Polytechnic while on day release from his club. He is now one year into his master's degree in computer engineering at UMIST.

As part of his research there, he has become involved in assessing the role of computers in the planning of sports centres. Naturally enough, he has a special interest in the problems that are besetting league soccer, and has worked on a costing package for United, who, when finances improve, could well put his ideas into practice.

Working on the mainframe at UMIST, he has developed a financial planning programme suitable for use by prospective sports centre developers, using the well tried "What if?" system that poses questions such as "If construction costs rose by 10 per cent, at stage three of building, what percentage increase would be needed in the

volume of admissions to cover the cost increase?"

By taking this program as a base, he has now taken the core of it and converted it to run on the small hand-held Sharp PC1500 computer, thus enabling the engineer working on-site to give realistic estimates as the job progresses, by answering only a few simple questions.

One of the facts unearthed during Bailey's research is that the once highly profitable squash courts are declining in favour of indoor tennis, which promises to be sport's new growth area. With work on this programme now complete, he has recently moved into the consultancy field, setting up, with a friend, a business with the apt acronym of Soca, which stands, he says with tongue firmly in cheek, for Specialist Organization for the Computer Age.

He hopes that through Soca he can advise small businesses who are contemplating the purchase of a micro in the £2,000-£10,000 range, and prevent them from making costly errors. By piling down the fee charged to the client, and picking up the profit on the supply of the hardware, Bailey hopes to attract businesses to whom he will also offer the facility of tailor-made software.



Gary Bailey: into planning of sports centres

If figures allow, he hopes to employ one or two unemployed graduates under the YOP scheme.

Although Manchester United are tied to Sharp Electronics in a two-year sponsorship deal, Bailey is the only member of the

team to be involved in computers, although several of his team-mates have sought his advice when buying micros for their children.

He looks on the computer as a valuable therapeutic device. He says that after a strenuous

training session or a tiring away fixture, there is no better way to unwind than to pit his wits against an inanimate machine, and to become enveloped in a different world.

Geoffrey Ellis

There are still businesses around that tie themselves down with paperwork, strait-jacket themselves in bureaucracy, and shackle themselves with costly out-of-date methods.

You may even suspect your own business could be run on more efficient lines, and better use could be made of available resources.

If you do, then one of the best ways this can be achieved is with the Commodore 700.

Whether your company is a multi-national conglomerate or a one-man business, the 700 Series computers from Commodore will help to make it more efficient, which in turn will help to make it more profitable.

That's because the 700 gets through all the time-wasting (but nevertheless essential) paperwork in a fraction of the time you take. So leaving you with the time to get on with what you're best at: running your department, or company.

The 700 comes in a range of models and options, which means you can select the microcomputer that's exactly right for your particular requirements.

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But what really makes the 700 Series stand out from the competition is the price: starting at just £995.*

A system of comparable sophistication will cost you around a third more than that. And if you don't believe us, just take a look around.

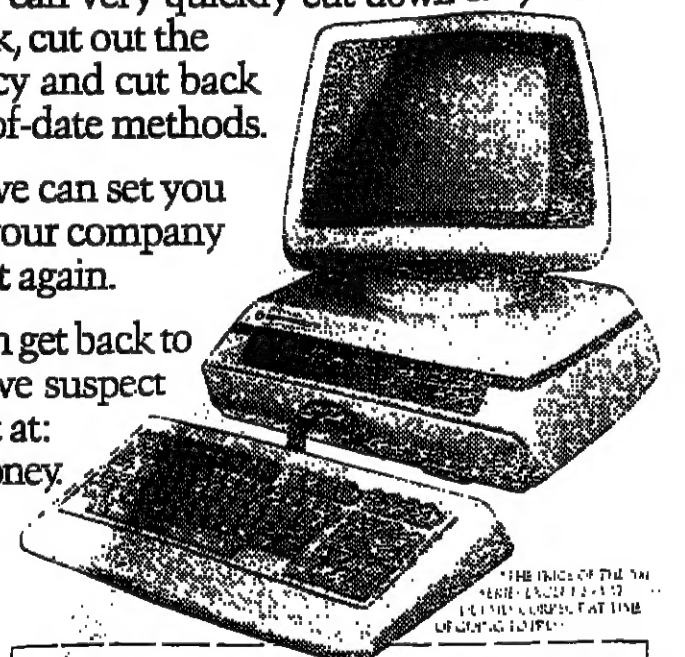
If you'd like further information on the 700 Series computers, or on the complete range of computers from Commodore, one of the biggest microcomputer companies in the world, please fill in the coupon.

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Then we can very quickly cut down on your paperwork, cut out the bureaucracy and cut back on the out-of-date methods.

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The Commodore Information Centre, 675 Ajax Avenue, Slough, Berks SL1 4BG. Telephone: Slough (0753) 79292. Please send me information about (please tick appropriate box): the Commodore 700, or other Commodore computers: the 64 ☐ 8000 ☐

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commodore
Changing business for the better.

Six keys will do on any journey

When the sleek executive shearing your first class railway carriage opens up a small leatherette pouch and removes what looks like an oversize calculator with only six keys, there is a very good chance that he is about to start typing an urgent office report.

The machine in question, the Microwriter, is a new portable word processor developed in Britain by an American, Cy Endfield, and funded initially by Hambro Life Assurance.

Mr Endfield took as his initial requirements a machine that was completely portable, could be operated by a non typist and was able to handle sufficient text for the average businessman, store it, and then print or display it on a VDU.

The Qwerty keyboard was designed a century ago with the specific intention of slowing down the typing speed to prevent the slow moving keys from jamming, but now, with modern golfballs, daisy wheels and the like, the standard keyboard remains.

Mr Endfield broke away from this concept and chose to use only six keys, which when depressed in a variety of combinations, give the user a comprehensive alph-numeric character set.

Text is displayed on the built in calculator style LCD screen, and scrolls from right to left. It is stored in an 8K memory, sufficient for about five A4 pages of text. By using the sixth "command" key, all the stan-

dard word-processing commands, such as tabulation, editing, page length are available.

The manufacturers claim that it is possible to learn the rudiments of the system within a few hours, eventually being able to write in speeds exceeding that of handwriting.

There may be some "unlearning" necessary by typists, but the average executive has little knowledge of the conventional typewriter keyboard and should be able to adapt to a one handed operation with the help of learning cards which outline the letters in diagrammatic form.

A 12-year-old managed to enter a flawless "Dear Sir" after only 15 minutes practice.

The ideal user of the system would be an executive, away from his office who is able to type in reports of meetings while still fresh in his memory, edit them on the large screen of his hotel television set, and then plug into the office printer on his return for a finished report.

Alternatively, it is possible to feed the text stored in the memory directly on to tape of into a computer for processing at a later date.

Exports of the machine are proving successful - the most recent order was for several hundred Microwriters to be distributed in the Gulf area by Key Information Technology, who themselves will later be developing an Arabic text model.

G.E.

This is no way to run a business.

Legal Appointments

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We shall look for good academic records and with the personality to deal with clients in a wide range of industrial and commercial businesses.

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Stephenson Harwood

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Our Company and Commercial Department, with its extensive connections in the world of international business and finance, offers opportunities to ambitious and energetic Solicitors who want to broaden their experience in a wide range of stimulating corporate and commercial work.

We are looking for applicants with a good academic background, good basic training in this field, and approximately two years' relevant experience since admission.

Please write to J. G. Fleming, Stephenson Harwood,
Saddlers' Hall, Gutter Lane, London EC2V 6BS,
with full curriculum vitae.

Titmuss, Sainer & Webb

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We require assistant solicitors and legal executives for all aspects of commercial property work.

Applicants at a senior level must be able, and at a junior level should have the potential, to produce high calibre work - and will be remunerated accordingly.

Applications with full C.V. should be sent to:-

The Partnership Secretary
Titmuss, Sainer & Webb
2 Serjeants' Inn, London EC4Y 1LT

SOLICITOR COMMERCIAL PROPERTY

We have a vacancy for a Solicitor in our Property Department. The ideal candidate should have experience of all types of commercial property matters and be capable of high quality work. This is an opportunity for a young and able Solicitor to join us as assistant to one of the Senior Property Partners.

Applications in confidence to John Toomey, 15 Devereux Court, Essex Street, London, WC2R 3JX.

ROWE & MAW

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Reuter Simkin

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Elf UK Limited, the British subsidiary of one of Europe's leading oil companies, is extensively involved in exploration and production activities in the North Sea.

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elf

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(No candidate will be considered through agencies)

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Clyde Petroleum is a growing British independent oil company, whose principal activities include oil and gas exploration, development and production on an international basis.

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Applicants will need to show that they can develop with the expansion of the company. Benefits include a company car, non-contributory pension, share incentive scheme and, where appropriate, relocation to the Herefordshire area.

To apply, or for further information, write to the: Company Secretary (ref WH) Clyde Petroleum plc at Coddington Court, Coddington, Ledbury, Herefordshire.

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Conditions of service are essentially the same as those applied to staff directly employed by the U.K.A.

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For further particulars of this vacancy and an application form, please do not telephone but write on a postcard to the Staff Records Office, City of London Polytechnic, London EC3A 7BB and quote reference number 83/24.

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Young man or woman required to assist in the preparation and finalisation of contracts covering all aspects of the Company's business activities with emphasis on artist and producer contracts.

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Previous experience in the Record Industry would be a definite advantage.

An attractive salary with a wide range of benefits is offered for this position which is based in central London.

Applications in writing giving full details of background and experience to date should be sent to:

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A THORN EMI Company

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are seeking:

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(a) - a solicitor to assist partner principally with development work. At least two years' experience in commercial conveyancing including tax aspects is required.

(b) - a solicitor with at least one year's experience capable of handling a substantial workload of residential conveyancing with some commercial conveyancing.

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Applications are invited for the post of Legal Executive in the Labour Relations and Legal Department of the Royal College of Nursing which is a professional organisation and independent trade union having a membership some 220,000 nurses.

The Department provides a service of advice and representation to college members on matters arising out of or in the course of their employment as nurses. The work is mainly litigation and concerned with criminal, civil and industrial areas of law.

The successful candidate will be a Legal Executive with at least ten years' litigation experience and preferable with membership of the Institute of Legal Executives. This post is based in London, the salary scale is £3,419 - £10,150 plus £1,230 per annum London Weighting and there is a contributory pension scheme.

Further details and application form from the Personnel Officer, The Royal College of Nursing, Cavendish Square, London W1M 0AB. Tel: 01-409 3333. Closing date for return of forms Friday 17th June 1983.

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Shortages loom as rain halts farmers

By John Young, Agriculture Correspondent

At what is normally one of the busiest times of the year, farming has all but come to a halt in many parts of the country because of rain. Fields are waterlogged and a tractor at work is a rare sight.

The most immediate effect is likely to be shortages of spring greens and early summer beans, peas and new potatoes. It is virtually impossible to get on to the fields either to harvest or plant.

In the longer term, yields of wheat and barley are expected to be lower, because farmers have been unable to apply pesticides and top dressing fertilizers. No one is yet predicting a disaster, but experts have warned that hot, wet weather in June or July could produce an epidemic of crop diseases.

On the other hand, a hot, dry summer could be almost as bad, since roots have been rotted in the saturated ground. If the topsoil dried out, the weakened plants would be deprived of moisture.

The British Sugar Corporation has already discounted hopes of another record beet harvest. It said yesterday that an estimated 10 per cent of the crop had still to be sown, and that this year's yield would be at best no more than average.

A week ago less than half the main potato crop had been planted. The position has slightly improved since as farmers, stimulated by the prospect of shortages and consequent high prices, have struggled on to their fields.

The Potato Marketing Board estimates that some 36,000 acres were planted last week, compared with an average of

about 25,000 in each of the preceding three weeks. But there is still a risk that they will rot in heavy soils if the wet weather continues.

With supplies of hay and winter silage all but exhausted, farmers are being forced to turn cattle out to pasture, despite the damage done by their hooves which turn muddy fields into morasses, and the likelihood that many leys will have to be replanted.

Lack of sun deprives the grass of proteins and sugar, and this has already been reflected in milk production which was only four per cent higher in April than a year ago, compared with increases of 12 per cent or more earlier in the year. Cutting grass for next winter's silage has also been badly hampered.

In upland areas, grass growth on hillsides has been very poor. Straw which can be used as a supplementary feed for livestock, but which many farmers chose to burn last autumn, is now fetching up to £80 a tonne.

Oilseed rape, relatively unknown in Britain until about 10 years ago, is now easily the country's most rapidly expanding crop. Between 1977 and 1981 the total acreage almost doubled, from 135,000 acres to more than 250,000, and in the last two years has increased even more spectacularly to an estimated 650,000.

The main reasons for its popularity are that it finds a ready market as a versatile substitute for most important vegetable oils and is an excellent break crop between wheat or barley.

Albany group finds food

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Reporter

Seven prisoners, including Provisional IRA and Palestinian Liberation Organisation terrorists and an armed robber sentenced to four life terms for murder, yesterday continued their protest on the roof of Albany prison, on the Isle of Wight, without any sign of surrender.

Prison officials have held some talks with the men who may be prepared for a long stay. A sack has been seen being lowered from the roof and may be being used to receive supplies from sympathizers.

The men have been seen drinking from a flask and eating, and the authorities have denied them food and water since the protest started on Friday.

Yesterday they threw debris from the roof, part of which the have removed so that they can shelter underneath.

So far, the authorities have decided to leave the men alone and three prisoners have already surrendered.

Those that remain include Fahad Mihiy, aged 25, convicted for a PLO attack on an El Al aircraft in London in 1979.



Barbed protest: Peace campaigners planting crosses near the runway yesterday after breaching the perimeter fence at RAF Upper Heyford, an Anglo-American nuclear base in Oxfordshire. (Photograph: Brian Harris).

Cowardice charge widens PLO split

From Robert Fisk, Damascus

There were further serious upheavals within the Palestine Liberation Organisation yesterday when the leader of the pro-Moscow guerrilla group within the PLO went over Mr Yasser Arafat's head to demand an economic boycott of Lebanon, and then indirectly demanded the dismissal of two of Mr Arafat's newly-appointed commanders.

Mr Nayef Hawatmeh, who heads the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, told a press conference in Damascus that Syria should impose "a total economic boycott of Lebanon" that would "force the Lebanese bourgeoisie" to decide where their true interests lay.

Mr Hawatmeh would not say whether he called for the boycott of Lebanon with the full authority of the PLO.

However, he made it clear that he regarded Mr Arafat's new commanders as one of whom he accused of running away from the Israelis - as worthless. The eight prominent PLO officers who have rejected Mr Arafat's leadership first sought support by demanding

the dismissal or trial of the two former commanders from southern Lebanon who were appointed by Mr Arafat to new positions in the Lebanese Bekaa Valley earlier this month.

"There is always a need for purging the ranks of a resistance front", Mr Hawatmeh said. "This is a phenomenon common to all resistance movements. There are some people who left the battle scene of resistance in southern Lebanon. He who left his position in Sidon should be outside the ranks of the revolution. This applies to any fighter who runs away from the battle scene."

Mr Hawatmeh spent much of his time outlining his distrust of the Israeli-Lebanese withdrawal proposals, claiming that the newly signed agreement between the two countries was part of an American conspiracy to weaken Arab resistance to Israel and persuade Jordan to negotiate with Israel over the Palestinian autonomy without the PLO's approval.

South African air raid kills civilians

Continued from page 1

Matola suburb which was the target of a raid by South African commando units in 1981 on houses and buildings they believed to be occupied by ANC members.

In December last year, the South Africans made a similar raid on alleged ANC "nests" in Maseru, the capital of Lesotho, killing 42 people. Many were ANC members, but 12 were Lesotho civilians whom the South Africans said, had been unintentionally "caught in the cross-fire".

Speaking in Parliament yesterday, General Malan said the latest raid had been carried out by Impala Mark 3 aircraft. A missile site of the Mozambique Defence Force protecting the ANC positions had also been "effectively neutralized".

General Malan said the attack had been an act of revenge for the bomb blast in Pretoria, which occurred outside the headquarters of the South African Air Force and the offices of military and naval intelligence. Armed Forces personnel were among the victims, but most seem to have

been civilians, both black and white.

● MAPUTO: Reporters who toured the area unescorted after the five-minute raid yesterday said the victims appeared to be civilians, Reuters reports.

They reported no evidence of his on premises connected with the ANC, and no sign of Mozambique missile installations. The dead included three Mozambicans working in a jam factory, two of them women, killed by cannon fire, a six-year-old child and a South African black who had been washing his car. Neighbours said he may have been an ANC member.

The homes of two Mozambique families were hit. One belonged to the head of the state advertising agency.

● LONDON: Britain last night condemned the raid, in a strongly-worded statement by Mr Francis Pym, Foreign Secretary, who said he had been shocked. Henry Stanhope writes: "I have repeatedly made clear my view that the problems of southern Africa cannot be solved by violence," he said.

Frank Johnson's campaign trail

Happy landings as blue meets grey out west

Showing a command of tactical as well as strategic methods of transport, Mrs Margaret Thatcher, who used an aeroplane for her first mission from London last Friday, was yesterday dropped on Bristol from a helicopter for her second at the Longwell Green community centre in the constituency of Wansleyke.

She was met by a large crowd of friends and a large number of cameras disappeared inside. Those of us who know better than to tangle with a mob of old-age pensioners surrounding Mrs Thatcher held back. They are ruthless when they want to converse with her. She is ruthless in her use of them liking nothing better than to be photographed in circumstances of amity with the Grey vote in order to refute Labour's proprietorial claims to our senior citizens.

It was explained to us by a local Conservative strategist that inside the building the party had produced for inspection by her before the cameras a veteran of the Battle of the Falkland Islands, aged 88. That battle, one assumed, was the one which took place around the Falkland Islands in 1915 rather than the one in 1982. Either that, or Mrs Thatcher is even more ruthless with the use of old folk than we thought.

Because of the crush, it was impossible to record what precisely passed between them. According to the Conservative official, he expressed a readiness to go down there and do the same again to the enemy. She promised to let the enemy know that. Presumably she and he had in mind, as the enemy, the Argentines rather than the Germans, though in the interests of our good relations with the Bundesrepublik she had better clear that up.

Geopolitical matters having been dealt with, she then had lunch in the community centre. We and the photographers were excluded from that, and, correctly so, I had no wish to see my illusions of her shattered. Mrs Thatcher with fork poised in gaping mouth probably looks as undignified as the rest of us in that posture.

Cheered on by the old folk, she set out for the second marginal: Kingswood. There she attacked an engineering

works. Outside she was met by about a score of young people gathered under the red banner of the Bristol Socialist Workers party. Many more earnings except, of course, the girls.

They chanted demands for the occupation of the factories and similar amusements to be made available to young people. Leading the chants with a loud-hailer was a man with a Liverpool accent. Bristol being perhaps short of organizers of revolution and Liverpool having enough of them to export.

As she entered the factory, the Bristol Constabulary stood between her and the revolution. But she was in no danger. There were plenty of old ladies about.

While she inspected the factory, the vanguard of the Bristol proletariat continued to call for its occupation. A half-dozen supporters of Mr Terence Walker, the Labour candidate, stood apart from the revolutionaries. They appeared to be solid citizens: representatives of the bourgeois reformist tradition of socialism despised by such places as Havana and Liverpool. "Come up here and demonstrate with us", the man with the loud-hailer, attempting the formation of a popular front for immediate tactical purposes, cried across to the reformists.

He was greeted with the shout: "Out on the bloody doorknocker. That's where we need you, mate." The revolutionaries attempted no further dialogue with the leavers in the parliamentary road to socialism.

A van with a loudspeaker driven by two Conservative girls drove up and started playing "Land of Hope and Glory". Thus there was an intervention by the common enemy of both revolution and parliamentarianism: "Imperialism". Anxious to prevent civil war, a policeman asked the imperialists to turn the sound down, which they did.

Their second piece of music was a throbbing baritone singing "Roses of England". I inquired the name of the singer, "Ivor Novello", one of the girls replied. I suggested that that could not be right, for I had always associated that artist with a less virile persona. "Perhaps it is Ivor Emmanuel singing it, and Ivor Novello who wrote it," she said. "It is a very old song."

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

Royal engagements

The Prince and Princess of Wales attend a luncheon in aid of the Leukaemia Research Fund and the Injured National Hunt Jockeys Fund, Dorchester Hotel, London, 12.40; attend a dinner in aid of Live Music Now, Apsey House, Hyde Park, 7.45.

The Duke of Gloucester opens the Northampton Information Technology Centre, 11.30; opens the Northamptonshire Enterprise Show, Derrigate Centre, Northampton, 12.35.

Princess Alexandra attends a gala performance of South Pacific, Logan Hall, 20 Bedford Way, 7.30.

New exhibitions
Scotland's heritage of printed books and learning, National Library of Scotland, George IV Bridge, Edinburgh, Mon to Fri 9.30 to 5, Sat 9.30 to 5, Sun 2 to 5; (until Sept 30).

Indian Costumes from Guatemala, Art Gallery, Civic Centre, Green, Stafford, Tues to Fri 10 to 5, Sat 10 to 4, Sun 2 to 5, closed Mon; (until July 3).

The History of the Stroudwater and Thames and Severn Canals,

from their origins in 1776 and 1783 to current restoration, Gloucester Folk Museum, 99-103 Westgate Street, Gloucester, Mon to Sat 10 to 5, closed Sun; (until July 9).

Inner Worlds: symbolic works by Joseph Beuys, Museum and Art Gallery, The Strand, Derby, Tues to Sat 10 to 5, closed Sun & Mon; (until June 25).

Pottery by Seung Ho Yang, Museum and Art Gallery, The Green, Stafford, Tues to Fri 10 to 5, Sat 10 to 4, closed Sun & Mon; (from today until June 25).

Drawings by George Fullard, College of Art and Design, Loughborough, Mon to Thurs 9.15 to 5, Fri 9.15 to 5, closed Sat & Sun; (until June 10).

Five sculptures by Anthony Caro, Library Gallery, Guilford Lawn, Knaresborough, Mon to Wed 9.30 to 5, Thurs and Sat 9.30 to 5, Fri 9.30 to 5, closed Sun; (until June 25).

Paintings, drawings and lithographs by Edward Bawcutt and paintings by Celeste Radloff, Phoenix Gallery, Lavenham, Suffolk, Mon to Fri 10 to 5.30, Sat 10 to 6, Sun 2 to 6; (until June 13).

Last chance to see

Photographs by Colin Baxter, Rozelle House, Rozelle Park, Ayr, Mon to Sat 11 to 5, Sun 2 to 5; (ends today).

Music

Organ recital by Simon Lindley, Leeds Parish Church, Kirkstall, Leeds, 7.30.

Concert by City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, Town Hall, Cheltenham, 7.30.

Concert by Philharmonia Orchestra, Assembly Rooms, Market Place, Derby, 7.30.

Recital by Caroline Body (flute) and Marie Saba (piano), Chichester Cathedral, 1.10.

Concert by Colchester New Music Ensemble, St Botolph's Church, Colchester, 8.

General

The Childhood of Christ, based on medieval mystery plays, by Portsmouth Cathedral Players, All Saints Church, Ryde, Isle of Wight, 8.

How a conductor should take what's coming to him (4, 3, 5).

Commander gives some lead to shepherd (5, 7).

Vigorous development eg in Crete (9).

Result of appeal in second Test? (7).

Literally unreliable evidence (7).

4 could be an instrument in making his joke (7).

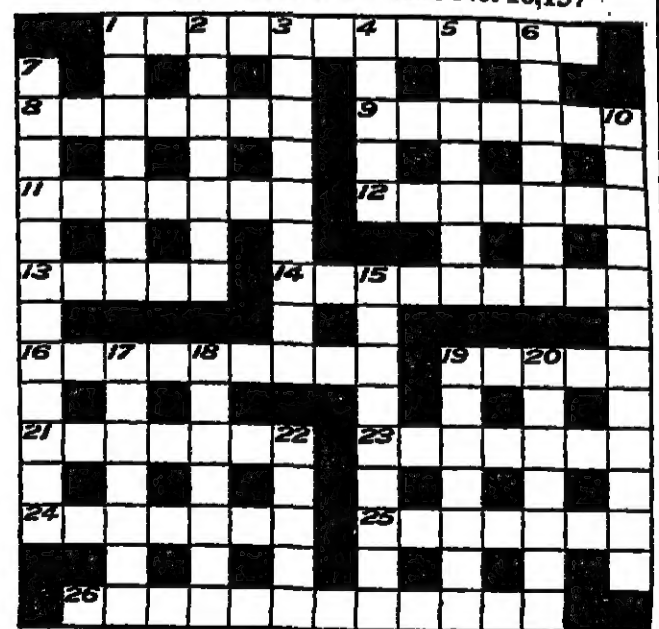
What are those revolting people getting up to? (7).

Communist makes his comeback in Nine Lives (5).

Solution of Puzzle No. 16,136



The Times Crossword Puzzle No. 16,137



ACROSS

- Illustration perfectionist endlessly revised (12).
- No profit from this sort of play... (7).
- Unseen actors abandoned (4, 3).
- Rebuilt on a site in country (7).
- Skill of expert, since converted to church (7).
- Gives one an edge that's not quite above board (5).
- Golfing event finished without determination (4-5).
- Eccentric character means to proceed on foot at two speeds (3, 4).
- Run into vulgar parents in Italian city (5).
- TV's having trouble, 9 after Blue Peter's showing (3, 4).
- First book is on DNA units (7).
- "Now sleeps the... petal, now the white" (Tennyson) (7).
- Moth's mistress ill met by moonlight (7).
- Spades for example for gardeners in the Queen's croquet ground (7-8).

DOWN

- Note number is even (7).
- Upstart in deep South said to go round the world (7).
- Plant takes a Spanish wine... (9).

CONCISE CROSSWORD PAGE 10

TV top ten

Top television programmes in the week ending May 15:

- Coronation Street (Wed) Granada, 14.70m
- News at Six (Mon) Granada, 14.40m
- Crossroads (Tues) Central, 12.75m
- Crossroads (Thurs) Central, 12.30m
- Jamaica Inn (Tues 21.00) HTV, 12.25m
- Family Fortunes, Central, 12.05m
- European Cup Winners Cup Final, ITV, 11.55m
- News at Ten (Tues) ITN, 11.75m
- Swindale Farm (Tues) Yorkshire, 11.55m
- 3-2-1, Yorkshire, 11.55m

BBC 1
1 That's Life, 11.40m
2 Dallas, 11.10m
3 The World At Six, 10.10m
4 News & Weather (Sun) 9.55m
5 Fame, 9.50m
6 Top of the Pops, 9.30m
7 The House on Greenapple Rd, 9.25m
8 Are You Being Served? 9.20m
9 Dynasty, 9.15m
10 Antiques Roadshow, 9.05

BBC 2
1 Call My Bluff, 5.55m
2 The Mavis Magic, 4.40m
3 To Serve Them All My Days, 4.20m
4 The House on Greenapple Rd, 4.25m
5 One Night in Lincoln, 2.55m
6 Sunday Grandstand, 2.50m
7 Discovering Birds, 2.70m
8 Antiques Roadshow, 2.50m
9 Entertainment USA, 2.55m
10 The Young Ones, 2.55m

Channel 4
1 First Love - Secrets, 4.30m
2 Chivers, 2.35m
3 Henry Cooper's Golden Ball, 2.30m
4 Tell The Truth, 1.55m
5 W.A.L.K., 1.50m
6 Leave Em Laughing, 1.75m
7 Soap, 1.75m
8 So-called (Tues) 1.65m
9 Brookside (Wed) 1.55m
10 Fathers' Day, 1.55m

SAC
1 First Love - Secrets, 146,000
2 Set Million Dollar Man, 114,000
3 Brookside (Wed) 112,000
4 Vietnam, 104,000
5 St Elsewhere, 98,000

In Welsh
1 A Sian (Quiz show) HTV, 1.00m
2 Newyddion Sath (News) BBC, 88,000
3 Ydy Ffôn (Quiz entertainment) HTV, 65,000
4 Ydy Ffôn (Quiz entertainment) HTV, 65,000
5 Fawo Yn Ei Pro (Quiz show) BBC, 52,000

Breakfast television: The average weekly figures for audiences at peak times (with last week's figures in parentheses):
BBC 1: 1.5m (1.5m)
BBC 2: 1.5m (1.5m)
ITV: 1.5m (1.5m)
Channel 4: 1.5m (1.5m)
SAC: 1.5m (1.5m)

Births: Gabriel Fahrenheit, inventor of the mercury thermometer, Gdansk, Poland, 1685; Queen Victoria (reigned 1837-1901), Kensington Palace, 1819; Sir Arthur Wing Pinero, dramatist, London, 1855; Jan Christiaan Smuts, prime minister of South Africa 1919-24 and 39-48, Irene, Pretoria, Riebeck West Cape Colony, 1870.

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The pound
Bank Rate 1.50
Bank of England 1.50
Australia 1.84
Austria 28.40
Belgium 79.25
Canada 1.97
Denmark 13.49
Finland 8.36
France 11.95
Germany 4.00
Greece 134.00
Hong Kong 11.21
Ireland 1.27
Italy 236.00
Japan 384.00
Netherlands 4.49
Norway 11.56
Portugal 159.00
South Africa 2.04
Spain 163.00
Sweden 12.15
Switzerland 3.34
USA 1.60
Yugoslavia 132.00

Rates for small denomination bank notes, as applied by Barclays Bank International Ltd, are given in pence for travellers' cheques and other foreign currency business.

Retail Price Index: 332.5
London: The FT Index closed down 2.8 at 692.4.

Anniversaries
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Roads

London and the South-east A13: Canning Town flyover closed 9.30 am to 4 pm. Chelsea Flower Show (Members' Day): Heavy congestion in roads surrounding Royal Hospital, Chelsea, including Chelsea Bridge Road and Embankment. A13/A27: Roadworks completed at Chisworth roundabout, Southampton.

Midlands and East Angles M1: Lane closures at junction 19 (M6), M5: Lane closures between junctions 8 and 9 (M50 to Ashchurch).

East Angles, E Midlands: Rather cloudy, showers; wind variable, light; max temp 14 to 15C (57 to 59F).

W Midlands, N Wales, Isle of Man, Northern Ireland: Rather cloudy, showers; wind variable, light; max temp 14 to 15C (57 to 59F).

Channel Islands, SW England, S Wales: Outbreaks of rain, perhaps heavy at times, becoming lighter and drier later; wind W, veering NW, light to moderate; max temp 15 or 16C (59 to 61F).

Borders, Edinburgh, Dundee, Aberdeen, SW North Scotland, Glasgow, central Highlands, Argyll: Mist or fog patches soon clearing, sun; patches soon clearing, sun; patches soon clearing, sun; patches soon clearing, sun.

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